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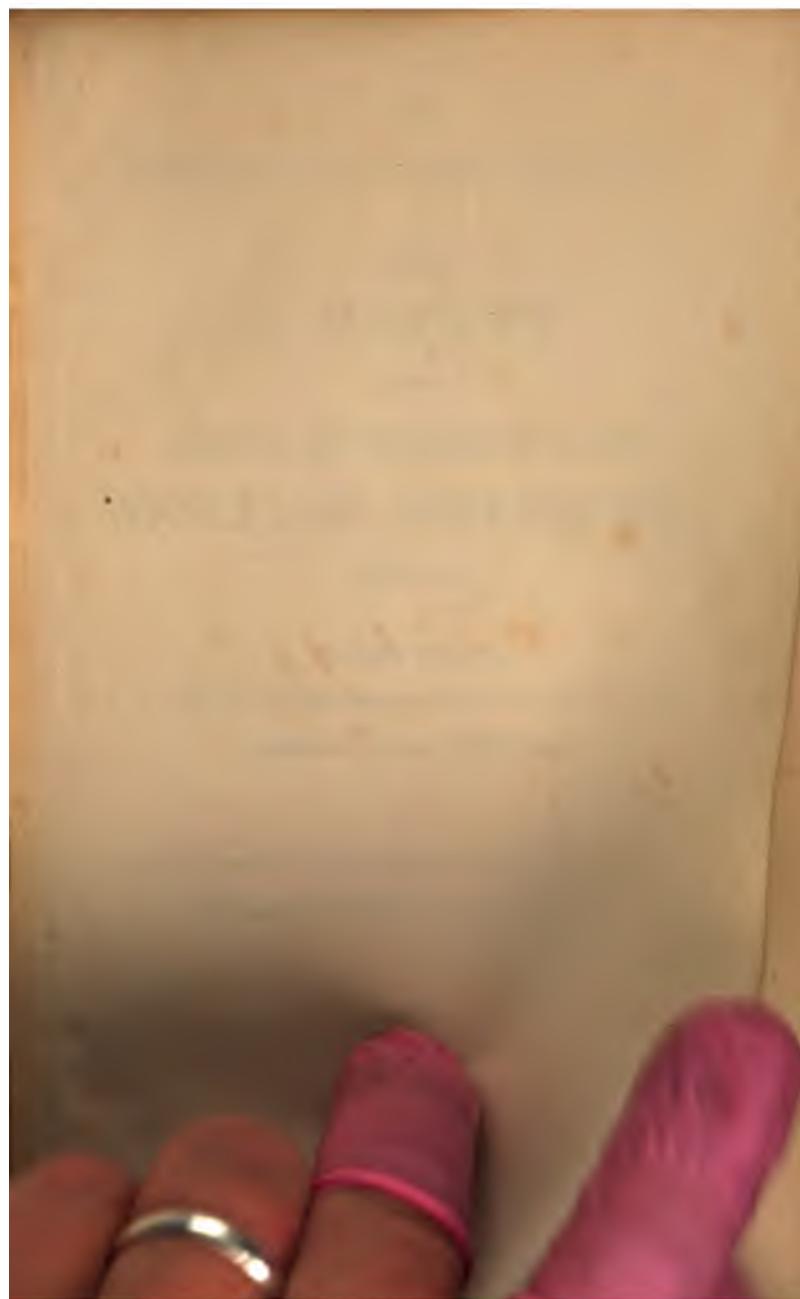


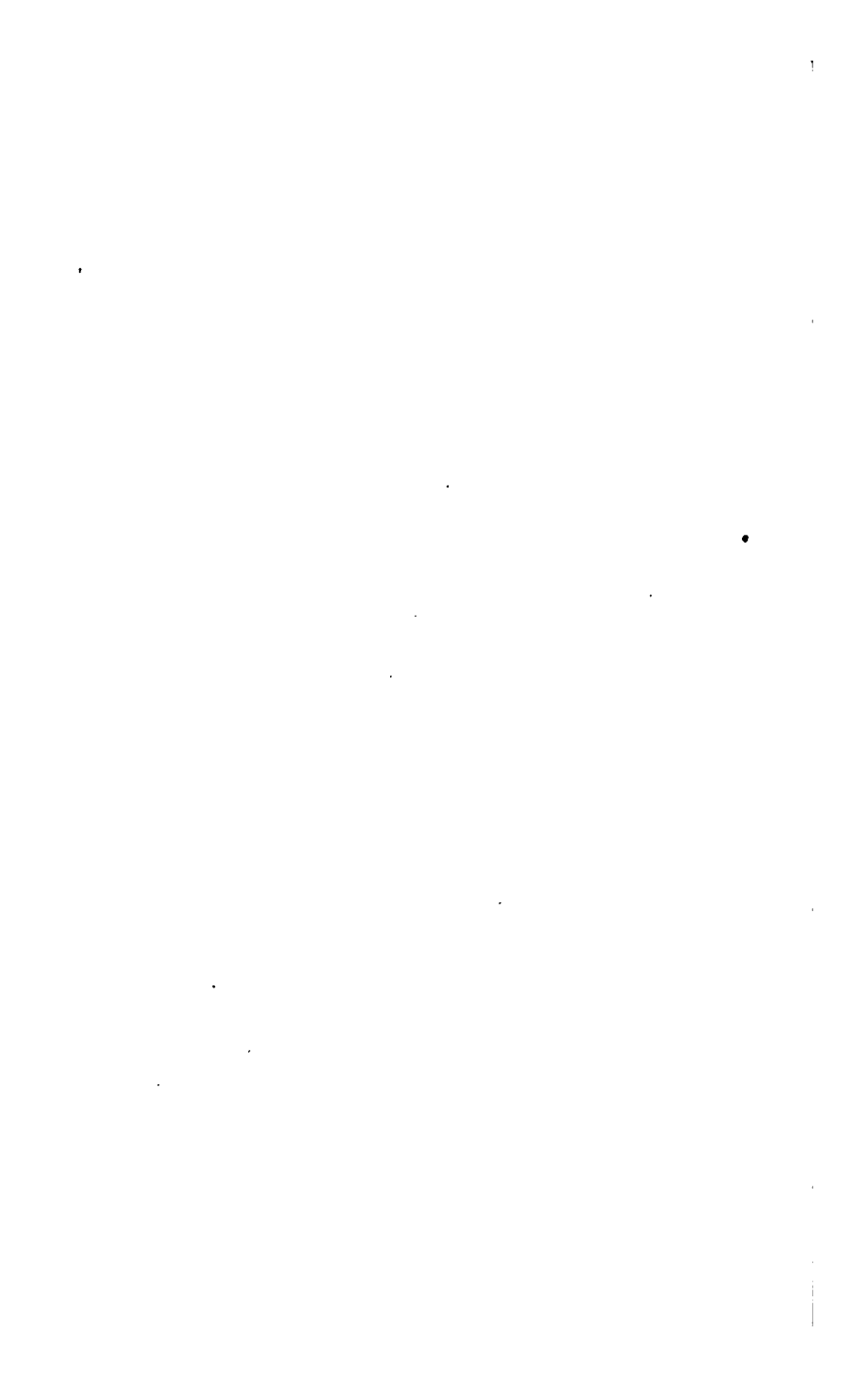
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THE
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BEING
A REPORT

OF THE

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

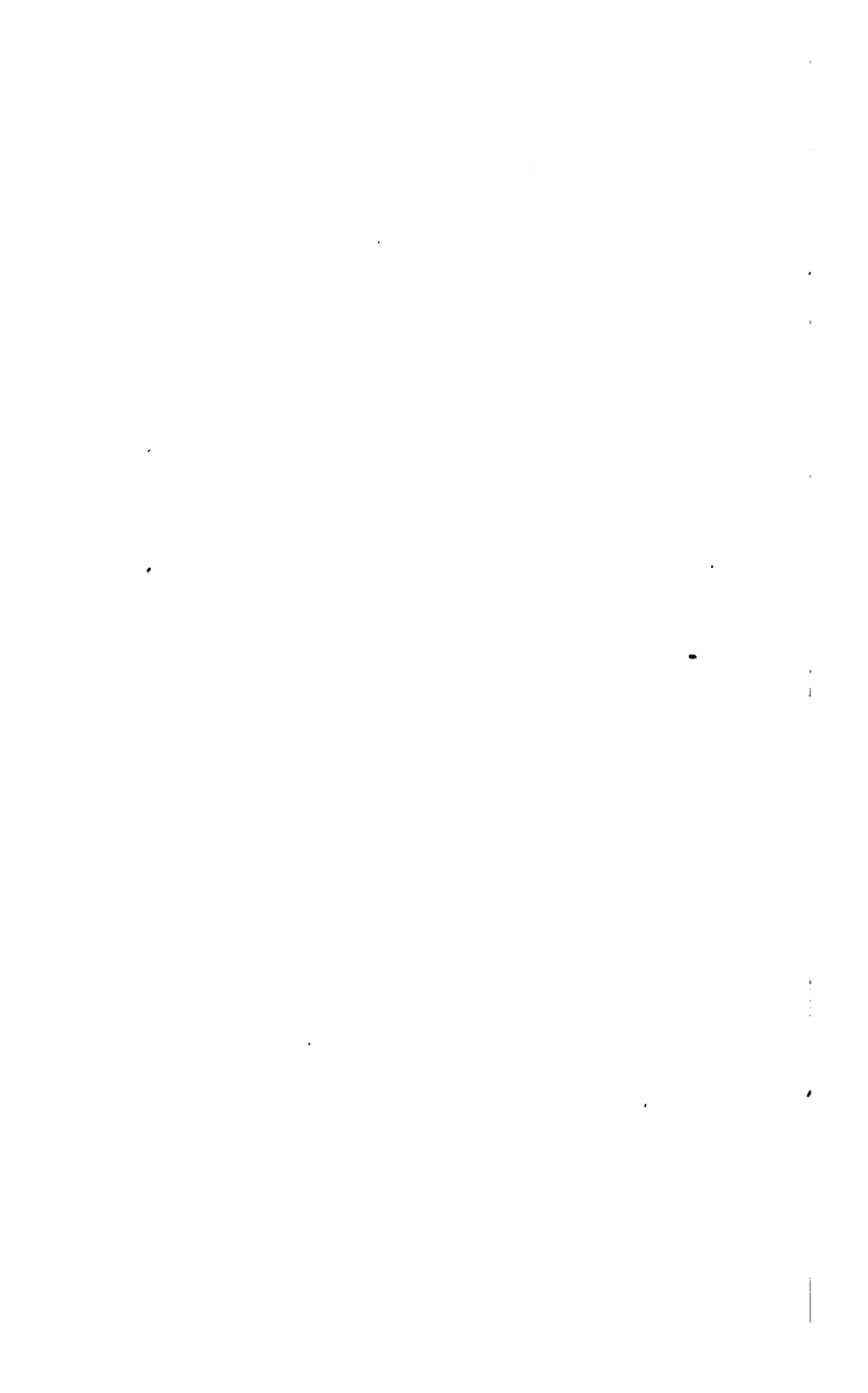
MDCCCL.;

TOGETHER WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEES, AND THE
STATIONS OF THE MINISTERS:

CAREFULLY COMPILED AND ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER
BY SAMUEL HARRISON, OF SHEFFIELD.



LONDON:
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1850.



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WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE,

MDCCCL

PREPARATORY COMMITTEES.

THE STATIONING COMMITTEE.

THIS Committee is constituted of a representative from each District, elected by ballot of all the ministers in full connexion, the President and Secretary of the preceding Conference, one of the Missionary Secretaries, and one of the officers of the Theological Institutions. During its sittings the members are enjoined not to divulge any of its secrets until the plan of the stations is completed, when the representatives are directed, without delay, to write to their brethren who remain in the circuits, informing them of their appointments; and it is expected that similar information be sent to all the circuit stewards. When answers have been returned from these different parties to their respective representatives, the Committee, during some of the first days of the Conference, again meets and revises its plan, to suit, as far as practicable, the views and wishes of the ministers and stewards; and at this meeting the newly-elected President presides, and the President and Secretary of the preceding year are members. This Committee assembled on Friday, the 19th of July, in City-road Chapel, London, to prepare the first draft of the stations of the ministers for the ensuing year; and continued its sittings, by various adjournments, until its business was completed.

KINGSWOOD AND WOODHOUSE-GROVE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

This Committee met on Wednesday evening, July 24th, and was numerously attended by ministers and laymen from all parts of the Connexion. After the usual devotional services, the President of the Conference called on the Rev. JOHN CARE to read the minutes which detailed the proceedings of the Kingswood School Local Committee, and their report gave a most satisfactory account of the state of the school. The Rev. JONATHAN CROWTHER then read his report of the examination, and in all respects there was matter for satisfaction and gratitude.

The Rev. F. J. JOBSON read the Treasurer's report, with reference to the New School, from which it appeared that the plans and preparatory arrangements generally respecting New Kingswood School, had been agreed upon previous to the last Conference; and, to hasten the commencement of the erection, the resolution of the former Conference was somewhat modified; and the last Conference directed that when £8,000 had been obtained in cash, or in good promises, the building might be begun. In the month of February last, Mr. Cusworth informed the Committee of Management, assembled at Bath, that he had obtained the required amount in promises, such as might be safely relied upon; and the Committee resolved to commence the buildings as soon as practicable. Before this it had been ascertained by some members of the Committee, that the piece of land adjoining the upper part of the ground purchased

for New Kingswood School, and which, in the first instance, was declared to be most desirable to secure from annoyance, and to complete the New Kingswood premises,—might be obtained for the sum of £580; and they, having also ascertained, that if the buildings were placed further back, and on comparatively level ground instead of on a steep hill, as they might be if the additional piece of ground were obtained, the amount of money required for the purchase of the additional piece of land would be fully saved in the expense of the building, recommended the purchase to be made; and the Committee purchased it accordingly. The plans were immediately revised, and, without any material alteration in the dimensions, and relative situations of the rooms, it was found, by the estimate supplied, that, on the enlarged and more level site, a saving in the expense would be realized of £700. A form of contract with the builder, —Mr. John Vaughan, of Bath,—on the reduced amount, was prepared under the direction of the Committee, and has been duly signed by Mr. Vanner and the Rev. F. J. Jobson, bearing date April 8, 1850. The contract is for the payment to the builder of £8,875, if the whole of the works shall be satisfactorily completed; but, that the Committee might proceed safely, it has been agreed by a clause in the contract for that object, that, at present, the Chapel, which is a separate building, shall not be erected; and this reduces the amount contracted for by £800. It is not the intention of the Committee to abandon the erection of a Chapel on the premises. They have merely postponed that part of the work until they shall have ascertained the exact amount of money available for the buildings, and know that they can complete their entire plans without encumbering the Institution with debt. The foundation-stone of the new school was laid on the 20th of June, by James Heald, Esq., M.P. The day was favourable to the object; the attendance was large and influential; and the entire services of the day were satisfactory and encouraging. The buildings are now in course of erection, and will soon have reached the square, and be ready for the roofing. By the terms of the contract, they are to be completed and fit for habitation by the 31st of October, 1851. After the report had been read, it was unanimously agreed that the following resolutions should be recommended to the Conference:—1. That Mr. Vanner be appointed a Treasurer of the Building Fund, in the place of Mr. Hunter; 2. That the Public Collection promised by the Conference, on behalf of New Kingswood School, be directed to be made at as early a date as practicable; 3. That Trustees for the New Kingswood estate be appointed in equal numbers of ministers and lay gentlemen, so that a legally secure settlement of it may be made without any further delay; and 4. That permission be given by the Conference to sell the old Kingswood premises.

The Rev. FRANCIS A. WEST read the minutes of the Woodhouse Grove Local Committee. They indicated that the school was, generally, in a satisfactory and flourishing condition. The vacations of the school were recommended to be a few weeks earlier. There was a great desire among the boys to acquire general information; and with that view they made very good use of the library. The defective state of the school-room was alluded to, and the Committee hoped that they would be allowed to participate in the collection, so far at least as Yorkshire was concerned, in order to meet the expenses of the repairs required to make the establishment comfortable. When the school was first erected, it was intended to accommodate only 70 boys; there are now in it 120.

Mr. ROBINSON KAY made particular enquiries as to the salaries and

money value of other allowances of the head and other masters in the respective schools, and he was furnished with the information required. As a layman, he felt a deep interest in the well-being of these schools. (Hear, hear.) Whilst their ministers were labouring in different parts of the Connexion, they had to entrust the care of their children to these establishments; every one, and especially every layman, ought, therefore, to take great interest in every thing pertaining and essential to their prosperity and success. (Hear, hear.) Twelve months ago, he made the remark, that the literary attainments of the scholars, and the instruction in the schools, were defective. It was for that reason he wished to ascertain the precise amount of the salaries. He considered it important that the head masters should be men who had taken a high literary position in our universities. When they offered £300 or £400 a-year, they would be able to procure first-rate talent. While they saw Sheffield and Taunton bidding high for talent, they saw Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove bidding low. If one feeling more than another ought to exercise sway over their minds, it was this,—that ministers, those reverend men who were devoting their lives to the spread of vital religion and the advancement of Methodism, should feel and see that the laity were taking that deep interest in the welfare of their families, which they had a right to expect, and for which they would be amply rewarded, by seeing ministers' sons becoming worthy successors of their parents, if the children were trained under eminent and talented masters. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. C. PEARCE said, that there could be no diversity of opinion with regard to all Mr. Kay had said; (hear, hear;) and he thought it was highly honourable to the feelings of Mr. Kay, and to the lay gentlemen whose sentiments he had expressed. But if the salaries of the head masters were to be advanced, the income of the establishments must be advanced also, unless some means of economizing could be put in operation. While, on the one hand, their income had been somewhat regular, there had been, on the other hand, a large increase in the number of children admitted to the schools. They were now in advance of their income £790. The Rev. G. B. MACDONALD said, that having resided five years in Woodhouse Grove School, he might be allowed to express an opinion on the subject. They ought to bear in mind, that the education of boys at their schools terminated at fourteen, while at Sheffield or Taunton it was continued to seventeen or nineteen, which would necessarily require masters of higher attainments. When he was under instruction, thirty-three years ago, the classical and mathematical attainments of the boys were far inferior to what they are now. At present, he believed, they had nothing to fear from a fair comparison with Sheffield. (Hear, hear.) At their establishments, the basis of a thoroughly good education was laid, as far as it could be with boys of fourteen years of age. As far as Woodhouse Grove was concerned, the head master was calculated to meet all their necessities and wishes. The Rev. J. CROWTHER bore his testimony to the ability and attainments of the head master at Kingswood School. Mr. PEARCE observed, that many men who took high honours at the universities were not able to convey instruction to boys. Mr. CUSWORTH said, they had had many such men at Kingswood, and how had they acted? They wanted men trained in Methodism, men who understood its doctrines and discipline. Eminent men coming from Oxford and Cambridge, bound their minds to those universities, and were totally incompetent for these establishments. They wanted the working class of teachers, such as they now happily possessed. (Hear, hear.)



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fund was instituted. Those of them who had been found faithful to their trust had become involved in pecuniary embarrassments, and they had, therefore, a just and irresistible claim on the liberal sympathy of the Connexion at large. The superiority of the present mode of meeting these distressed cases, for upwards of forty years, had become obvious. The committee, in conclusion, urged that a special appeal should be made this year, by ministers and others, to the congregations in behalf of the trustees, who, even on trying occasions, had so generally been found faithful to their trust. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. JOHN RATTENBURY complained that he, as treasurer to the Education Fund, had only received about £2000 from the Chapel Fund treasurers, who had in their hands £1980, which had placed him in considerable difficulties. It would be more convenient for him if his portion of the amount were remitted in small sums, and not retained until it had reached a large amount.... The Rev. ROBERT WOOD assured Mr. Rattenbury that he transmitted all the sums for the Education Fund as fast as they came to his hands. He (Mr. Wood) had on several occasions remitted considerable sums of his own money to that Fund; and he showed that he had acted strictly according to the resolutions of Conference.... After some further conversation and explanation, the subject dropped; and the committee proceeded to make various grants to chapels, after hearing and investigating their respective claims.

The Rev. F. A. WEST said, that the union of the Chapel and Education interests had assumed a serious aspect. Some of the cases of the chapels which had been brought under their consideration that morning were of the most urgent nature, and the very existence of Methodism in the localities where they were situated depended upon the help the Conference would grant them. (Hear, hear.) The committee were aware of an intimation that was given two years ago, that the Chapel Relief Committee would be anxious, when the proper period arrived, to dissolve this union. He wished that immediate steps should be taken to consider the many cases of great emergency for relief; and he thought the best plan would be to refer the matter to the Conference, and to request that a committee should be appointed which would enter fully into this important question.... The Rev. J. FOWLER said that he was not much surprised to hear that dissatisfaction was expressed respecting the union of the two funds. However, as the compact had been entered into for seven years, at the expiration of which period matters would revert to their original form, and as they were now in the sixth year of that union, he did not see the necessity of entering upon the question at present.... The Rev. J. SCOTT said that, if their lives were spared, on Monday next they would see what had been done in furtherance of the educational movement. He perfectly concurred with Mr. West that Conference should appoint a committee to investigate the whole question. Next February would terminate the period of the union, and, by the following Conference, some decided steps should be taken in reference to this exceedingly important question. Through uncommon efforts, they had got rid of a great number of very bad chapel cases. By stimulating and encouraging trustees, they might accomplish still more. They had still very bad cases remaining, which it was not at all desirable should linger on their hands year after year—(hear, hear)—but be at once relieved.... Mr. WEST said that there was now a special call made on them to help a great number of cases, for the welfare of the Connexion depended on the relief that was given, so that trustees might see that they were disposed to meet them on fair and equitable terms.

The PRESIDENT then read a resolution, which was to the effect that Conference be requested to appoint an efficient committee, for the purpose of devising means of meeting cases of distressed chapels, and of spreading our system of education.

The report of the CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE was then read by the Rev. WM. KELK. It commenced by expressing their satisfaction at the marked and cheering progress chapel building had made in the preceding year, notwithstanding the unhappy agitation which had prevailed in the Connexion during the year, which might have interrupted and paralyzed chapel building. The number of applications made to the committee since last Conference was 106. Of these, 52 were for new chapels, 26 for enlargements, 10 for school houses, 6 for organs, and 12 for sales. Of these, 87 had been allowed, namely, 41 new chapels, 23 enlargements, 8 schools, 6 organs, and 9 sales. Out of the 72 chapels and schools allowed to be built or enlarged, 25 were either to be free from debt or the debt was not to be increased.... The entire cost of the buildings allowed by the committee was estimated at £38,699 18s. The same item in the report of last year was £21,275, showing an advance of no less than £17,424. This was no evidence that the confidence of our people in the institutions of Methodism was abated—(applause)—or that they had any misgivings as to the security of our chapel property. (Hear, hear.) The amount of debt on the above outlay was £9,568, and the expected income £1,880 9s.... The returns of buildings completed within the year were still more encouraging, amounting to 100. Of these, 57 were completed according to rule, 23 had received no sanction from the committee, and in 26 cases the final debt had exceeded the sum agreed on. Of the 57 cases in which rule had been observed, there were 25 new chapels, 18 enlargements, 4 school houses, and 4 organs, the aggregate cost of which was £13,452 6s. 7d. In 33 cases out of the 51, no debt had been incurred; and on the remainder, the debt amounted to only £945,—while the annual income realized was £380. In 26 cases, the actual debts were £4,323 17s. 11d. above those agreed upon. With the exception of two cases, this class of chapels showed an improvement on the corresponding class of last year. The committee regretted that they should have to report that 23 cases of erections and enlargements should have taken place, without their sanction, especially as 12 out of the 23 were financially good, and would have received their cheerful consent had it been solicited. (Hear, hear.) The total cost in this class of cases, was £3,961; the debt £1,362;—and the annual income £157 11s.... The Committee regretted that more progress had not been made in the department of school buildings, only four such buildings having been erected during the year, one of which, however, was deserving of honourable mention. In the First Manchester Circuit, at Redbank, Francis Parnell, Esq., had erected a most commodious and beautiful school, which cost him £1,000 which he had presented to the Connexion entirely free from debt; (hear, hear;) the Committee, therefore, respectfully suggested that this case deserved the special thanks of the Conference. At Funley, also, in the Stroud Circuit, a chapel had been built and presented to the Connexion by John Hancock, Esq., (hear, hear,) but the Committee had not been furnished with any particulars respecting it. The Committee constantly made inquiries, in their revised schedules of applications for new chapels, as to what provision was intended for the accommodation of the poor, and of the children of our Sunday and Day-schools; and they specially recommended, that the provision for the poor in the new chapels should not

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AUXILIARY FUND COMMITTEE.

mittee, for considering and relieving cases of special distress numerous ministers and their families, met on Saturday July 27th. The proceedings were not of public interest.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

Committee met at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. After devotional exercises, the Rev. ROBERT NEWSTEAD read the report of the Committee. It began by stating, that there was a general feeling throughout the country, founded on many pleasing facts, that there never was a period in the history of this country when the doctrine of the Sabbath attracted so much general attention; although perhaps there never was a time when the doctrine of Sabbath sanctification was surrounded with more anxious hopes and anxieties. The wide diffusion of the Sabbath Prize Essays, and the fact that had been made to innovate on the sanctity of the Sabbath at the General Post Office, in October last, had most materially contributed to bring the public mind to the importance of the subject. The Lord's Society had liberally offered to place all its efficient agency, throughout the country, at the disposal of the Committee, which had greatly assisted in procuring petitions to Parliament from remote places, that, no effectually contributed to the result which happily followed,—the cessation of postmen's labour on the Sabbath, in consequence of the passing of Lord Ashley's motion, on the 8th of June. In accordance with the decision of the House of Commons, the collection and delivery of letters and newspapers, on Sunday, ceased on the 23rd of June last. Subsequently, the Committee had forwarded a petition, signed by the members of the Conference and the people of our Connexion, against Mr. Locke's motion. On the 9th of June, the Committee forwarded a memorial through the proper channel, to her Majesty the Queen, expressing their gratitude for the great boon that had been conferred on the members of the Connexion, in consequence of her Majesty consenting to the address of the House of Commons. The memorial had been honoured with the usual gracious acknowledgement, by Sir George Grey. Since that period, Lord Ashley had had transmitted to him 237 addresses, for presentation to the Queen. It was with great regret, that the Committee had observed that an attempt, mainly through the clamour of the Sunday newspaper press, had been made to have the order rescinded. Happily, Mr. Locke's motion was lost, although the Committee feared that they would not ultimately secure all they desired. The Committee recommended that multitudes of petitions and memorials should be presented, praying that the present measure should be fairly tried, so that the country might form an opinion from experience of its beneficial operation. The Committee favourably alluded to the Sunday Trading Bill, which had passed the House of Lords, and had been read for the second time in the House of Commons; but deeply lamented the systematic efforts that were carried on by Railway Companies throughout the country, to run trains on the Sabbath day more recklessly than ever.

Mr. HEALD, M. P., (interrupting Mr. Newstead,) said that great efforts had been made by Railway Companies at Manchester, to divert the children from the Sunday Schools, by carrying them at cheap fares to distant places; but he was happy to say that that had now ceased. The people of Manchester had made a strong demonstration on the subject, and had succeeded in preventing its revival. (Hear, hear.) Another pleasing fact,

only be ample but as comfortable as possible. In conclusion, the Committee could not help reverting, with peculiar feelings of satisfaction, to the progress which had been made in the erection and enlargement of chapels free from debt; they trusted that this movement, in the right direction would steadily advance, in order both to enable persons in humble circumstances to take sittings at a reduced charge, and also that the income available from the larger chapels might be appropriated to the increase of the Ministry,—an object which every day's experience showed to be necessary to full and efficient Pastoral oversight.

Mr. KELK then proceeded to read the general statements contained in the schedules. This led to a conversation concerning the excess of debt on Poplar Chapel, beyond what had been allowed, and which, it appeared, had arisen almost wholly out of extravagant expenditure on the organ. Mr. FARMER said, that it would place things in their right position, and save a great deal of unpleasant discussion, if it was expressed, at their District meetings, that they considered organs as extras, and that it was not essential to the worship of God to have them in our chapels. (Hear, hear.) If friends thought proper to have organs, they should be told that the expenses attending their erection must be defrayed, irrespective of the amount required for the buildings themselves; and that they would best show the importance they attached to organs, by diligence in collecting subscriptions for them. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. C. PREST said, that the erection of organs without adequate funds, was the infliction of an evil that was perpetually occurring, and one which frequently involved chapel funds in serious difficulties. Mr. VANWEE said, the plain fact of the case was, that the parties who advocated the introduction of organs were those who had been enlisted in the scheme. Let them see who was to pay for the organs, and the evil would soon cease;—the expenses consequent on the erection of organs should not belong to the trust fund at all. In an instance with which he had been immediately connected, the erection of an organ had been treated strictly in the manner recommended. Mr. WALKER thought, that a resolution condemning the erection of organs without the necessary funds, should be passed at once. Mr. PREST said that the organ cases, which had been brought under their notice, should be reported to Conference, that it might be shown that there was a sufficient power of discipline.

Votes of thanks were passed to the officers and others, and the business of the Committee then closed.

THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

This Committee met on Friday, July 26th, at Five o'clock. The Book Steward, the Rev. J. MASON, read the report, which, considering the circumstances of the Connexion during the past year, was highly gratifying. It stated that, in the sales of the books, there had in some instances been an increase. Subsequently a vote of thanks was passed to the President for his admirable pamphlet published shortly after the last Conference. The PRESIDENT, in reply, said, that he had seen an observation—he believed it was in the *Watchman*—that he had begun to stoop. Let it, however, be distinctly understood that, however he might be disposed to stoop on one point, he would never stoop to radicalism. (Hear, hear.) A demand was made that they should put the pastoral office into commission; but it was a duty no less enjoined on the ministry to exercise the pastoral rule than to preach the gospel. (Hear, hear.)

AUXILIARY FUND COMMITTEE.

This Committee, for considering and relieving cases of special distress among supernumerary ministers and their families, met on Saturday morning, July 27th. The proceedings were not of public interest.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

This Committee met at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. After the usual devotional exercises, the Rev. ROBERT NEWSTEAD read the report of the Committee. It began by stating, that there was a general opinion, founded on many pleasing facts, that there never was a period in the history of this country when the doctrine of the Sabbath attracted such universal attention; although perhaps there never was a time when the question of Sabbath sanctification was surrounded with more anxious circumstances. The wide diffusion of the Sabbath Prize Essays, and the attempt that had been made to innovate on the sanctity of the Sabbath at the General Post Office, in October last, had most materially contributed to awaken the public mind to the importance of the subject. The Lord's Day Society had liberally offered to place all its efficient agency, throughout the land, at the disposal of the Committee, which had greatly assisted them in procuring petitions to Parliament from remote places, that, no doubt, effectually contributed to the result which happily followed,—the suspension of postmen's labour on the Sabbath, in consequence of the success of Lord Ashley's motion, on the 8rd of June. In accordance with the decision of the House of Commons, the collection and delivery of letters and newspapers, on Sunday, ceased on the 23rd of June last. Subsequently, the Committee had forwarded a petition, signed by the President of the Conference and the people of our Connexion, against Mr. Locke's motion. On the 9th of June, the Committee forwarded a memorial through the proper channel, to her Majesty the Queen, expressive of their gratitude for the great boon that had been conferred on the postmen, in consequence of her Majesty consenting to the address of the House of Commons. The memorial had been honoured with the usual gracious acknowledgement, by Sir George Grey. Since that period, Lord Ashley had had transmitted to him 237 addresses, for presentation to the Queen. It was with great regret, that the Committee had observed that an attempt, mainly through the clamour of the Sunday newspaper press, had been made to have the order rescinded. Happily, Mr. Locke's motion was lost, although the Committee feared that they would not ultimately secure all they desired. The Committee recommended that multitudes of petitions and memorials should be presented, praying that the present measure should be fairly tried, so that the country might form an opinion from experience of its beneficial operation. The Committee favourably alluded to the Sunday Trading Bill, which had passed the House of Lords, and had been read for the second time in the House of Commons; but deeply lamented the systematic efforts that were carried on by Railway Companies throughout the country, to run trains on the Sabbath day more recklessly than ever.

Mr. HEALD, M. P., (interrupting Mr. Newstead,) said that great efforts had been made by Railway Companies at Manchester, to divert the children from the Sunday Schools, by carrying them at cheap fares to distant places; but he was happy to say that that had now ceased. The people of Manchester had made a strong demonstration on the subject, and had succeeded in preventing its revival. (Hear, hear.) Another pleasing fact,

in connection with the Sabbath question was, that between the time of the adoption of Lord Ashley's address and Mr. Locke's motion, Mr. Forster, the Member for Berwick, brought forward a motion, empowering private individuals to carry letters on Sundays, which was lost by a large majority. (Hear, hear.) It was also known, throughout the country, that Mr. Locke was to bring forward his motion on a certain night; and yet it was a fact worthy of being recorded, that, notwithstanding that intimation, the petitions entrusted to Mr. Locke in favour of his motion were exceedingly few, being only 27; while he (Mr. Heald) alone presented 47 petitions against that motion. (Hear, hear.) Now, these were great facts, which would tell on the public mind better than arguments. (Hear, hear.) . . . The Rev. O. PRÆST said, that Lord John Russell's motion of inquiry into the operation of the Sabbath question had awakened great feelings of excitement, for fear the authorities should resort to the old system, unless a vigorous effort was made to resist it. . . . Mr. NEWSTEAD then proceeded to read the remainder of the Committee's elaborate Report.

Mr. HEALD said that he was very deeply impressed that, as a people, the Wesleyan Methodist Society were singularly deficient in the deliverance of their sentiments on the right observance of the Sabbath as an institution. As a member of the Wesleyan body, and in anticipation of coming events, he had respectfully ventured to suggest, on a former occasion, that the President of the Conference should preach a sermon on the great question of Sabbath observance. Almost every week since that period, the importance of the subject had been deeply impressed on his mind,—particularly from the loose notions which he often heard in the House of Commons. He was not aware what was the reason this vital question was not taken up by the Conference. He did not know that any work on the subject had received official sanction, except what was found on the Sabbath in Mr. Wesley's volume of sermons. The Evangelical Alliance had suggested that sermons should be preached on the subject. The most strange doctrines were often broached on this subject in the House of Commons, by fearless and earnest men, such as Col. Thompson. There was a great lack of official data, to which they, as Wesleyans, could appeal in maintenance of the institution, and which would clearly define the nature and obligations of the Christian Sabbath. He was deeply impressed that this was due to our body, which was not only shedding its influence on the British Islands but—a fact that ought never to be overlooked—had its missionaries all over the globe. He, therefore, earnestly hoped, that the closing sermon of the President would be on the principle and obligation of the Christian Sabbath; and whom could he select more fit for the task, from his sober judgement and matured experience, than Thomas Jackson? (Hear, hear.) He, (Mr. H.,) therefore, suggested, if the Committee sympathized with him, (hear, hear,) that the President be earnestly and urgently requested to comply with the desire of the Committee in this respect. . . . The PRESIDENT said that it was impossible for him to comply with the request, if they remembered the number of his many duties. He did not think that a sermon would be the most appropriate form to discuss such an important question. He had had his attention directed to the subject for some years, and had delivered a series of lectures on it. There were many loose notions to be controverted, such as those held by the present Archbishop of Dublin and others, and it would afford him much pleasure if he could by any possibility accede to the desire of Mr. Heald. . . . Mr. PRÆST said that in our times the Sabbath question has assumed a new form, and a new mode of argument was ne-

cessary to meet it, especially among those who held efroneous views on the subject. If the President would take up the subject at his own proper time, not only would the cause of God be thereby promoted, but it would also tend very materially to place the question on its proper basis. What was wanted among our people was an official treatise, which had received the sanction of the Conference.... The Rev. J. M'LEAN thought they would not gain much by dealing with details. Their best business would be to bring to bear the testimony of God's word on it. It was wholesome to keep the old and scriptural doctrines.... Mr. HEALD then moved, "that this committee being deeply convinced of the great importance, under existing circumstances, of a more full and formal declaration than has hitherto appeared of the views held by our Connexion as to the standing obligations of the Christian Sabbath, and the practical duties therewith connected, respectfully suggests to the Conference the expediency of its requesting the Rev. Thomas Jackson to prepare for publication, as early as convenient, and in such form as the Conference may judge most fitting, something which may meet the present emergency, and may be adopted as an official statement of the principles maintained by the Conference on that important subject.".. Mr. PREST seconded the resolution, which, after a few words from Mr. CROWTHER in its support, was carried unanimously.

After some further conversation, thanks were voted to the committee and officers, and the proceedings closed.

THE CATECHUMEN COMMITTEE.

This committee met on Saturday evening.... The Rev. SAMUEL JACKSON said that the committee had no regular report prepared this year. He would therefore make a verbal statement of the committee's proceedings, and would conclude with moving three resolutions for the consideration of Conference. There were about 34 circuits in which application had been made to the chairman of the district, to appoint some members to act as catechists, who would pay attention to the state of the youths in the various circuits; and from 20 circuits most cheering and satisfactory answers had been received, declaring the brethren's readiness to accept the office. Their labour would be divided into two departments—the adult and juvenile population. There was a great out-field population, as Thomas Chalmers used to call it, which consisted of the adult population, to seek the conversion of whom was the great duty of the Christian church. When Methodism first arose, Mr. Wesley, under the Divine guidance, originated a system for the illumination and conversion of this description of the population. But there was another class not less important—the children of those parents who spent a part of their life in alienation from God. The juvenile department would be divided into two classes—one in England and another in France. The Catechumen Institution intended to accomplish the various efforts that had been made, and were making, to bring the minds of those Sunday and day scholars to a right issue, and to enrol them as members of a Christian church. Having been once under Christian discipline, it would be the catechists' policy to keep them under that discipline, until their characters were formed, and they had been brought into fellowship with Christ. Such were the great objects of the Catechumen Institution. He contemplated the period with lively satisfaction when our ministry would be brought into union with our educational institutions, so that they would be identified and one in their object—not by any Conference enactment, but

through the progress of good feeling and kind solicitude for the spiritual welfare of our youth. He hoped the day would arrive when they would be brought to chapel to hear something more than what the teacher of the Sunday or day school had taught them—something on a matter begun by the teacher and completed by the preacher. The **FIRST** resolution that he would propose was, that there should be issued from the book-room some three or four pages, containing a selected list of Scriptural lessons, and let two lessons be prepared for every Sunday in the year. By such a method, the minds of youths and families would be simultaneously occupied, and the preacher could allude to these subjects in his discourse, when preaching for the instruction of the youth. These lessons were to be prepared by the editors of our magazines. His **SECOND** proposition was, that “**CATECHUMEN TICKETS**” should be prepared, which the ministers would be authorized to purchase at the book-room. This would be a very harmless expedient, and would be the means of attaching the young people to the ministry. His **THIRD** proposition was, that they should recommend to the Conference that Catechumen schedules should be prepared on a new principle, as those hitherto in use gave a great deal of unnecessary trouble. He thought these three resolutions could be safely adopted by Conference without any manner of risk, and he expected the result would be very satisfactory.... Mr. JONSON said there could be no doubt of the desirableness of such a list as that mentioned, by those who were accustomed to visit Sabbath schools, and he felt no hesitation in recommending it.... A long discussion ensued on the details of the resolutions.... The Rev. Mr. DAVIES observed that he feared the project would excite an expectation that ministers would attend the schools more frequently than their other duties permitted.... Mr. SMITH, of Camborne, highly approved of the plan, and the lessons would be very useful in many ways. He often found it an awkward task to address the young from some lessons which were suddenly placed before him. It was also highly important that the same lessons should be used throughout the Connexion.... Some other speakers having expressed their opinions on the subject, Mr. HEALD said that he was very much pleased with Mr. Jackson’s scheme of lessons, but he feared, like Mr. Davies, they would excite a great deal of expectation in our Sunday-schools, which could never be realised as far as ministerial visits were concerned. He had a deep impression on his mind that one of the greatest faults and failings of our Connexion was that we were paying too much attention to bricks and mortar, and too little to the extension of the ministry. He did not desire that more duties and burdens should be imposed on our ministers, but he was prepared to say, without any qualification whatever, that in order to carry out to the fullest extent Mr. Jackson’s laudable plan of Scriptural lessons, the ministers of our Connexion should be brought into direct contact with our Sunday-schools. Methodism was in a peculiar position at the present time, and his belief was that the future congregations of Methodist chapels were to be supplied from our Sunday-schools. We were, in the providence of God, a people who had been awakened to a sense of Gospel truth, and a mission had been given us to disperse it over the nations. While every other section of the Christian church increased their agency to a great extent, they might depend upon it it was not good for us to remain almost stationary. The Church of England was not backward in this respect; it had engrafted the voluntary principle to such an extent, in the shape of endowments, that, taken *per se*, was really astonishing; and the churches thus endowed often exercised such a

degree of influence in their respective localities as did not belong to us or any other Christian body. How were we to meet it? He did not believe that we should be able to meet it by the most diligent attention to the adult population; but we could meet it, and excel it too, among the infant and juvenile population of the country. (Hear, hear.) The Church of England could not come near us as regarded Sunday-schools. It knew and felt this. (Hear, hear.) In large populous towns we had our Sunday-schools crowded. God seemed to have given a large portion of the rising generation to our keeping; and if we expected to increase our congregations and to add to our ministry, he believed in his conscience that we must begin with the Sunday-schools. Mr. Jackson's plan, so far as it went, was everything that could be desired; but then, to do justice to our Sunday-schools, we wanted more than 100 additional ministers, who he would have to visit our Sabbath schools every Sunday, for the purpose of instructing the children and winning their hearts. By going among the children, let them teach them that they felt an interest in their welfare. (Hear, hear.) And if the children were once convinced of this, the ministers would soon through them get to their parents. If they had the best selected lessons, without being accompanied with the living ministry, much success would not attend them.... Mr. S. JACKSON said, if the lessons once received the sanction of Conference, he was sure ministers would take them up, and great benefit would be the result.... Mr. KAY said that he must confess he felt obliged to Mr. Jackson for the continued efforts which he was making for improving the minds of the young. The great fact was admitted on all hands, that there was nothing like systematic teaching of the young. They would find on investigation that there were not five circuits throughout the kingdom which adopted the same plan in their Sunday-schools. This was an acknowledged disadvantage, which loudly called for a remedy. He thought that remedy was to be found in Mr. Jackson's plan of Scriptural lessons, simple and unimposing as it was, which proposed to proceed quietly until something more extensive could be built on it.... Mr. PAXER said, that if this scheme were carried into effect, additional ministers must be had to perform the work; for, as far as his own circuit was concerned, he and his colleagues had now as much to do as they possibly could perform.... The Rev. R. JACKSON assured the committee that the issuing of the tickets would not involve much additional labour on the ministry, as he knew from practical experience in his own circuit.... Mr. SMITH could not help regarding the elements of our church as in a state of transition; and if we were to hold our position in the world, increased attention must be paid to the biblical and religious state of our juvenile population. (Hear, hear.) He thought, therefore, that they were bound to make an effort, let it involve what cost it might, to recognise, by such proposal as this, those young persons between the ages of 12 and 18, to whom one evening in the quarter ought to be devoted by our ministers, if they desired it to work successfully.

Mr. S. JACKSON then proceeded at considerable length to detail the project in reference to France. He said that he had, on his own responsibility, engaged Mr. B. Cook, son of their respected minister at Paris, as catechist for Paris, at a salary of £100 a-year—a quarter of which had already been paid him by himself. He had engaged Mr. Cook for three years. As there was no special provision made for the young man by Conference, he (Mr. J.) confidently expected that this excellent mission would not be allowed to languish for the want of the necessary funds....

the ordinary Contingent Fund, and if it were stated in that way to the Connexion, many would be found ready to help. He for one should be glad to contribute to a separate fund, and let it be known that such cases would be met. Mr. FARMER wished some facts to go from that meeting which would do the Connexion good. Let it be stated that accounts were kept of the sums which had been contributed, and that such accounts were produced there. He felt at liberty to propose that a SPECIAL FUND be formed for the purpose of meeting such special cases. Mr. JOHN HARTLEY, of Wolverhampton, expressed his intention to have proposed something of that kind, if no one else did. He cordially seconded Mr. Farmer's proposition and would give fifty pounds towards the Special Fund. Mr. VANNER felt happy to build on such a foundation, and would give twenty pounds for the same excellent object. The proposal was then unanimously adopted by the Committee. The PRESIDENT observed that the time of contraries had gone by—they were all of one heart and of one mind in their determination to support Methodism. A conversation then ensued respecting the propriety of administering the fund thus raised through the ordinary Contingent Fund Committee, or by the appointment of a special Committee for that purpose, in which Mr. VICKERS, Mr. FARMER, Mr. SCOTT, Dr. NEWTON, Mr. S. JACKSON, Mr. CUSWORTH, Mr. JOBSON, and Mr. HARTLEY took part: after which it was agreed that the subject should be resumed at the adjourned meeting in the evening.

THE EVENING SITTING was commenced at six o'clock, when the further investigation of the case continued till the close of the proceedings at eight o'clock.... The Rev. WM. BURT adverted to the Pamphlets which had been sent to different parts of the Connexion, from the Book room, relating to the proceedings of the last Conference, and the agitation which had prevailed, many of which had been sold, and some given away. Statements had been expressly made that these pamphlets were to be paid for out of the Contingent Fund. He should be glad to have a distinct statement from the Treasurers, whether that had been or would be the case.... The Rev. J. CUSWORTH then said that he had been one of the Treasurers of that Fund for upwards of twenty years. He had never paid, and no one associated with him in that office, as Treasurer, had paid a single farthing for any such pamphlets, in any shape or form whatever, and he had never had an application made to him for any such payment.... The Rev. J. STEPHENSON said he had written to Mr. Mason, the Book Steward, on the same subject. Mr. Mason distinctly denied that he had ever received anything from the Contingent Fund for any such pamphlets.... Mr. J. HARTLEY put some inquiries respecting the operations of the existing regulations affecting the employment of additional Ministers, which led to an interesting conversation.... Some gentlemen thought that these regulations did not work so well for the Connexion as the former plan; others expressed a contrary opinion, but no resolution was adopted respecting them.... The subject of the SPECIAL FUND, and the appointment of a committee for its administration, was then resumed.... Mr. GARLAND (on being requested by the President to express his opinion on the motion) said, he was not aware that the subject could be placed in any clearer light than it had been by Mr. Farmer and the speakers who had followed him; but, being thus directly appealed to, he could but express his hearty concurrence in the proposal, because, although the Contingent Fund was of very wide application, in reference to extraordinary emergencies, yet he doubted whether a case of this novel

description came legitimately within its range, and thought it would be better to raise a new fund for such special purpose, than to incur the risk of misappropriating any other. There was another reason why he favoured the proposal. He thought it desirable to give this practical demonstration to our community, that there is a reserved strength in Methodistism;—a power adequate to the wants, not only of ordinary, but of extraordinary, occasions; and that, whatever contingencies of disaster might occasionally happen, this latent energy would be roused contemporaneously with them, in sufficient strength to cope with and provide for them. For these reasons alone, he should feel pleasure in contributing his mite to such a fund, and had no doubt that it would have the cordial support of our attached friends throughout the Connexion.

CHAPEL FUND, CHAPEL RELIEF, AND CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEES.

These committees, on chapel affairs, met at nine o'clock on Friday morning, July 26th. After the usual preliminaries, the report of the Chapel Fund was read by the Rev. Robert Wood. It appeared from the report, that in 266 circuits there were no subscribers of 10s. or upwards: in 59, there was only one subscriber of 10s. or upwards; in 118 circuits, there were 623 subscribers; and the total amount of subscription was £617 6s. 7d. In 183 circuits, there were no trustee subscriptions; in 130 circuits, there was one subscription in each circuit; and in the remaining 130 circuits, there were 382 trustee subscriptions, amounting to £652 5s. The aggregate of the public collections, and private and trustee subscriptions, was £4,980 7s. 1d.; last year, it was £5,319 15s. 6d.; there was therefore a deficiency of £339 8s. 5d. this year.... Mr. MARRIOTT, the treasurer, said that he expected to receive considerable sums during the sittings of Conference, which would materially reduce the deficiency.... The report of the CHAPEL RELIEF FUND was then read by the Rev. F. A. WEST, the general secretary. The report commenced by stating that the total amount of subscriptions and collections received during the past year, for the United Chapel and Education Fund, with interest, was £5,325 10s. 6d. Of this sum (less the common expenses,) one moiety, amounting to £2,657 3s. had been paid to the treasurer of the Education Fund. The sum of £292 was appropriated in 16 circuits to meet the deficiency of interest on borrowed money, and £2,264 16s. 9d. had been paid to the treasurer of the Chapel Relief Fund, to be allotted, by a committee of 13 ministers and 12 laymen, in grants to distressed chapels, for the purpose of enabling their trustees to liquidate a portion of their principal debt. Grants were made during the past year in 30 cases, to the amount of £2,440. In addition to this, the committee have paid grants to 52 other chapels, amounting to £6,815, by which they had not only exhausted the funds in hand, and anticipated the whole income of 1850, but had also pledged a large portion of the estimated income for 1851, and there were many cases yet without the promise of relief. The report went on to urge that, while the efforts of the trustees and friends have been commendable and great, the call was loud on the Connexion at large for a corresponding liberality, and the necessity for augmented resources had become imperative. The committee felt, that while they were only able to assist desperate cases, they were only in part fulfilling the design of the institution. They wished to encourage efforts in less serious cases, and, by a small proportional grant, to prevent their sinking into the class of all but hopeless cases. The committee pressed the claims of the trustees, for whose benefit alone the chapel

fund was instituted. Those of them who had been found faithful to their trust had become involved in pecuniary embarrassments, and they had, therefore, a just and irresistible claim on the liberal sympathy of the Connexion at large. The superiority of the present mode of meeting these distressed cases, for upwards of forty years, had become obvious. The committee, in conclusion, urged that a special appeal should be made this year, by ministers and others, to the congregations in behalf of the trustees, who, even on trying occasions, had so generally been found faithful to their trust. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. JOHN RATTENBURY complained that he, as treasurer to the Education Fund, had only received about £2000 from the Chapel Fund treasurers, who had in their hands £4980, which had placed him in considerable difficulties. It would be more convenient for him if his portion of the amount were remitted in small sums, and not retained until it had reached a large amount.... The Rev. ROBERT WOOD assured Mr. Rattenbury that he transmitted all the sums for the Education Fund as fast as they came to his hands. He (Mr. Wood) had on several occasions remitted considerable sums of his own money to that Fund; and he showed that he had acted strictly according to the resolutions of Conference.... After some further conversation and explanation, the subject dropped; and the committee proceeded to make various grants to chapels, after hearing and investigating their respective claims.

The Rev. F. A. WEST said, that the union of the Chapel and Education interests had assumed a serious aspect. Some of the cases of the chapels which had been brought under their consideration that morning were of the most urgent nature, and the very existence of Methodism in the localities where they were situated depended upon the help the Conference would grant them. (Hear, hear.) The committee were aware of an intimation that was given two years ago, that the Chapel Relief Committee would be anxious, when the proper period arrived, to dissolve this union. He wished that immediate steps should be taken to consider the many cases of great emergency for relief; and he thought the best plan would be to refer the matter to the Conference, and to request that a committee should be appointed which would enter fully into this important question.... The Rev. J. FOWLER said that he was not much surprised to hear that dissatisfaction was expressed respecting the union of the two funds. However, as the compact had been entered into for seven years, at the expiration of which period matters would revert to their original form, and as they were now in the sixth year of that union, he did not see the necessity of entering upon the question at present.... The Rev. J. SCOTT said that, if their lives were spared, on Monday next they would see what had been done in furtherance of the educational movement. He perfectly concurred with Mr. West that Conference should appoint a committee to investigate the whole question. Next February would terminate the period of the union, and, by the following Conference, some decided steps should be taken in reference to this exceedingly important question. Through uncommon efforts, they had got rid of a great number of very bad chapel cases. By stimulating and encouraging trustees, they might accomplish still more. They had still very bad cases remaining, which it was not at all desirable should linger on their hands year after year—(hear, hear)—but be at once relieved.... Mr. WEST said that there was now a special call made on them to help a great number of cases, for the welfare of the Connexion depended on the relief that was given, so that trustees might see that they were disposed to meet them on fair and equitable terms.

The PRESIDENT then read a resolution, which was to the effect that Conference be requested to appoint an efficient committee, for the purpose of devising means of meeting cases of distressed chapels, and of spreading our system of education.

The report of the CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE was then read by the Rev. WM. KELK. It commenced by expressing their satisfaction at the marked and cheering progress chapel building had made in the preceding year, notwithstanding the unhappy agitation which had prevailed in the Connexion during the year, which might have interrupted and paralyzed chapel building. The number of applications made to the committee since last Conference was 106. Of these, 52 were for new chapels, 26 for enlargements, 10 for school houses, 6 for organs, and 12 for sales. Of these, 87 had been allowed, namely, 41 new chapels, 23 enlargements, 8 schools, 6 organs, and 9 sales. Out of the 72 chapels and schools allowed to be built or enlarged, 25 were either to be free from debt or the debt was not to be increased.... The entire cost of the buildings allowed by the committee was estimated at £38,699 18s. The same item in the report of last year was £21,275, showing an advance of no less than £17,424. This was no evidence that the confidence of our people in the institutions of Methodism was abated—(applause)—or that they had any misgivings as to the security of our chapel property. (Hear, hear.) The amount of debt on the above outlay was £9,568, and the expected income £1,880 9s.... The returns of buildings completed within the year were still more encouraging, amounting to 100. Of these, 57 were completed according to rule, 23 had received no sanction from the committee, and in 26 cases the final debt had exceeded the sum agreed on. Of the 57 cases in which rule had been observed, there were 25 new chapels, 18 enlargements, 4 school houses, and 4 organs, the aggregate cost of which was £13,452 6s. 7d. In 33 cases out of the 51, no debt had been incurred; and on the remainder, the debt amounted to only £945,—while the annual income realised was £380. In 26 cases, the actual debts were £4,323 17s. 11d. above those agreed upon. With the exception of two cases, this class of chapels showed an improvement on the corresponding class of last year. The committee regretted that they should have to report that 23 cases of erections and enlargements should have taken place, without their sanction, especially as 12 out of the 23 were financially good, and would have received their cheerful consent had it been solicited. (Hear, hear.) The total cost in this class of cases, was £3,961; the debt £1,362;—and the annual income £157 11s.... The Committee regretted that more progress had not been made in the department of school buildings, only four such buildings having been erected during the year, one of which, however, was deserving of honourable mention. In the First Manchester Circuit, at Redbank, Francis Parnell, Esq., had erected a most commodious and beautiful school, which cost him £1,000 which he had presented to the Connexion entirely free from debt; (hear, hear;) the Committee, therefore, respectfully suggested that this case deserved the special thanks of the Conference. At Funley, also, in the Stroud Circuit, a chapel had been built and presented to the Connexion by John Hancock, Esq., (hear, hear,) but the Committee had not been furnished with any particulars respecting it. The Committee constantly made inquiries, in their revised schedules of applications for new chapels, as to what provision was intended for the accommodation of the poor, and of the children of our Sunday and Day-schools; and they specially recommended, that the provision for the poor in the new chapels should not

only be ample but as comfortable as possible. In conclusion, the Committee could not help reverting, with peculiar feelings of satisfaction, to the progress which had been made in the erection and enlargement of chapels free from debt; they trusted that this movement, in the right direction would steadily advance, in order both to enable persons in humble circumstances to take sittings at a reduced charge, and also that the income available from the larger chapels might be appropriated to the increase of the Ministry,—an object which every day's experience showed to be necessary to full and efficient Pastoral oversight.

Mr. KELK then proceeded to read the general statements contained in the schedules. This led to a conversation concerning the excess of debt on Poplar Chapel, beyond what had been allowed, and which, it appeared, had arisen almost wholly out of extravagant expenditure on the organ. Mr. FARMER said, that it would place things in their right position, and save a great deal of unpleasant discussion, if it was expressed, at their District meetings, that they considered organs as extras, and that it was not essential to the worship of God to have them in our chapels. (Hear, hear.) If friends thought proper to have organs, they should be told that the expenses attending their erection must be defrayed, irrespective of the amount required for the buildings themselves; and that they would best show the importance they attached to organs, by diligence in collecting subscriptions for them. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. C. PREST said, that the erection of organs without adequate funds, was the infliction of an evil that was perpetually occurring, and one which frequently involved chapel funds in serious difficulties. Mr. VANNER said, the plain fact of the case was, that the parties who advocated the introduction of organs were those who had been enlisted in the scheme. Let them see who was to pay for the organs, and the evil would soon cease;—the expenses consequent on the erection of organs should not belong to the trust fund at all. In an instance with which he had been immediately connected, the erection of an organ had been treated strictly in the manner recommended. Mr. WALKER thought, that a resolution condemning the erection of organs without the necessary funds, should be passed at once. Mr. PREST said that the organ cases, which had been brought under their notice, should be reported to Conference, that it might be shown that there was a sufficient power of discipline.

Votes of thanks were passed to the officers and others, and the business of the Committee then closed.

THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

This Committee met on Friday, July 26th, at Five o'clock. The Book Steward, the Rev. J. MASON, read the report, which, considering the circumstances of the Connexion during the past year, was highly gratifying. It stated that, in the sales of the books, there had in some instances been an increase. Subsequently a vote of thanks was passed to the President for his admirable pamphlet published shortly after the last Conference. The PRESIDENT, in reply, said, that he had seen an observation—he believed it was in the *Watchman*—that he had begun to stoop. Let it, however, be distinctly understood that, however he might be disposed to stoop on one point, he would never stoop to radicalism. (Hear, hear.) A demand was made that they should put the pastoral office into commission; but it was a duty no less enjoined on the ministry to exercise the pastoral rule than to preach the gospel. (Hear, hear.)

AUXILIARY FUND COMMITTEE.

This Committee, for considering and relieving cases of special distress among supernumerary ministers and their families, met on Saturday morning, July 27th. The proceedings were not of public interest.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

This Committee met at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. After the usual devotional exercises, the Rev. ROBERT NEWSTEAD read the report of the Committee. It began by stating, that there was a general opinion, founded on many pleasing facts, that there never was a period in the history of this country when the doctrine of the Sabbath attracted such universal attention; although perhaps there never was a time when the question of Sabbath sanctification was surrounded with more anxious circumstances. The wide diffusion of the Sabbath Prize Essays, and the attempt that had been made to innovate on the sanctity of the Sabbath at the General Post Office, in October last, had most materially contributed to awaken the public mind to the importance of the subject. The Lord's Day Society had liberally offered to place all its efficient agency, throughout the land, at the disposal of the Committee, which had greatly assisted them in procuring petitions to Parliament from remote places, that, no doubt, effectually contributed to the result which happily followed,—the suspension of postmen's labour on the Sabbath, in consequence of the success of Lord Ashley's motion, on the 8rd of June. In accordance with the decision of the House of Commons, the collection and delivery of letters and newspapers, on Sunday, ceased on the 23rd of June last. Subsequently, the Committee had forwarded a petition, signed by the President of the Conference and the people of our Connexion, against Mr. Locke's motion. On the 9th of June, the Committee forwarded a memorial through the proper channel, to her Majesty the Queen, expressive of their gratitude for the great boon that had been conferred on the postmen, in consequence of her Majesty consenting to the address of the House of Commons. The memorial had been honoured with the usual gracious acknowledgement, by Sir George Grey. Since that period, Lord Ashley had had transmitted to him 237 addresses, for presentation to the Queen. It was with great regret, that the Committee had observed that an attempt, mainly through the clamour of the Sunday newspaper press, had been made to have the order rescinded. Happily, Mr. Locke's motion was lost, although the Committee feared that they would not ultimately secure all they desired. The Committee recommended that multitudes of petitions and memorials should be presented, praying that the present measure should be fairly tried, so that the country might form an opinion from experience of its beneficial operation. The Committee favourably alluded to the Sunday Trading Bill, which had passed the House of Lords, and had been read for the second time in the House of Commons; but deeply lamented the systematic efforts that were carried on by Railway Companies throughout the country, to run trains on the Sabbath day more recklessly than ever.

Mr. HEALD, M. P., (interrupting Mr. Newstead,) said that great efforts had been made by Railway Companies at Manchester, to divert the children from the Sunday Schools, by carrying them at cheap fares to distant places; but he was happy to say that that had now ceased. The people of Manchester had made a strong demonstration on the subject, and had succeeded in preventing its revival. (Hear, hear.) Another pleasing fact,

in connection with the Sabbath question was, that between the time of the adoption of Lord Ashley's address and Mr. Locke's motion, Mr. Forster, the Member for Berwick, brought forward a motion, empowering private individuals to carry letters on Sundays, which was lost by a large majority. (Hear, hear.) It was also known, throughout the country, that Mr. Locke was to bring forward his motion on a certain night; and yet it was a fact worthy of being recorded, that, notwithstanding that intimation, the petitions entrusted to Mr. Locke in favour of his motion were exceedingly few, being only 27; while he (Mr. Heald) alone presented 47 petitions against that motion. (Hear, hear.) Now, these were great facts, which would tell on the public mind better than arguments. (Hear, hear.) . . . The Rev. O. PREST said, that Lord John Russell's motion of inquiry into the operation of the Sabbath question had awakened great feelings of excitement, for fear the authorities should resort to the old system, unless a vigorous effort was made to resist it. . . . Mr. NEWTEAD then proceeded to read the remainder of the Committee's elaborate Report.

Mr. HEALD said that he was very deeply impressed that, as a people, the Wesleyan Methodist Society were singularly deficient in the deliverance of their sentiments on the right observance of the Sabbath as an institution. As a member of the Wesleyan body, and in anticipation of coming events, he had respectfully ventured to suggest, on a former occasion, that the President of the Conference should preach a sermon on the great question of Sabbath observance. Almost every week since that period, the importance of the subject had been deeply impressed on his mind,—particularly from the loose notions which he often heard in the House of Commons. He was not aware what was the reason this vital question was not taken up by the Conference. He did not know that any work on the subject had received official sanction, except what was found on the Sabbath in Mr. Wesley's volume of sermons. The Evangelical Alliance had suggested that sermons should be preached on the subject. The most strange doctrines were often broached on this subject in the House of Commons, by fearless and earnest men, such as Col. Thompson. There was a great lack of official data, to which they, as Wesleyans, could appeal in maintenance of the institution, and which would clearly define the nature and obligations of the Christian Sabbath. He was deeply impressed that this was due to our body, which was not only shedding its influence on the British Islands but—a fact that ought never to be overlooked—had its missionaries all over the globe. He, therefore, earnestly hoped, that the closing sermon of the President would be on the principle and obligation of the Christian Sabbath; and whom could he select more fit for the task, from his sober judgement and matured experience, than Thomas Jackson? (Hear, hear.) He, (Mr. H.,) therefore, suggested, if the Committee sympathized with him, (hear, hear,) that the President be earnestly and urgently requested to comply with the desire of the Committee in this respect. . . . The PRESIDENT said that it was impossible for him to comply with the request, if they remembered the number of his many duties. He did not think that a sermon would be the most appropriate form to discuss such an important question. He had had his attention directed to the subject for some years, and had delivered a series of lectures on it. There were many loose notions to be controverted, such as those held by the present Archbishop of Dublin and others, and it would afford him much pleasure if he could by any possibility accede to the desire of Mr. Heald. . . . Mr. PREST said that in our times the Sabbath question has assumed a new form, and a new mode of argument was ne-

cessary to meet it, especially among those who held erroneous views on the subject. If the President would take up the subject at his own proper time, not only would the cause of God be thereby promoted, but it would also tend very materially to place the question on its proper basis. What was wanted among our people was an official treatise, which had received the sanction of the Conference.... The Rev. J. M'LEAN thought they would not gain much by dealing with details. Their best business would be to bring to bear the testimony of God's word on it. It was wholesome to keep the old and scriptural doctrines.... Mr. HEALD then moved, "that this committee being deeply convinced of the great importance, under existing circumstances, of a more full and formal declaration than has hitherto appeared of the views held by our Connexion as to the standing obligations of the Christian Sabbath, and the practical duties therewith connected, respectfully suggests to the Conference the expediency of its requesting the Rev. Thomas Jackson to prepare for publication, as early as convenient, and in such form as the Conference may judge most fitting, something which may meet the present emergency, and may be adopted as an official statement of the principles maintained by the Conference on that important subject.".. Mr. PREST seconded the resolution, which, after a few words from Mr. CROWTHER in its support, was carried unanimously.

After some further conversation, thanks were voted to the committee and officers, and the proceedings closed.

THE CATECHUMEN COMMITTEE.

This committee met on Saturday evening.... The Rev. SAMUEL JACKSON said that the committee had no regular report prepared this year. He would therefore make a verbal statement of the committee's proceedings, and would conclude with moving three resolutions for the consideration of Conference. There were about 84 circuits in which application had been made to the chairman of the district, to appoint some members to act as catechists, who would pay attention to the state of the youths in the various circuits; and from 20 circuits most cheering and satisfactory answers had been received, declaring the brethren's readiness to accept the office. Their labour would be divided into two departments—the adult and juvenile population. There was a great out-field population, as Thomas Chalmers used to call it, which consisted of the adult population, to seek the conversion of whom was the great duty of the Christian church. When Methodism first arose, Mr. Wesley, under the Divine guidance, originated a system for the illumination and conversion of this description of the population. But there was another class not less important—the children of those parents who spent a part of their life in alienation from God. The juvenile department would be divided into two classes—one in England and another in France. The Catechumen Institution intended to accomplish the various efforts that had been made, and were making, to bring the minds of those Sunday and day scholars to a right issue, and to enrol them as members of a Christian church. Having been once under Christian discipline, it would be the catechists' policy to keep them under that discipline, until their characters were formed, and they had been brought into fellowship with Christ. Such were the great objects of the Catechumen Institution. He contemplated the period with lively satisfaction when our ministry would be brought into union with our educational institutions, so that they would be identified and one in their object—not by any Conference enactment, but

meet all their expenditure, and so entitle themselves to claim the £7,000 granted them by the Government. It was very desirable that they should be put into the way of raising that sum. (Hear, hear.) They might defer it until they got all their differences settled, and every thing was in a state of peace and quietness; but he did not know that they should gain any advantage by that; for, if all the agitators in the Connexion were there, he did not calculate on any large amount of subscriptions to that or any other object from those people who were now prominent in agitation. (Hear, hear.) What they could do for themselves, by the blessing of God, they might do; as to any help the agitators might afford them, it would be very little indeed. (Hear.) They had £7,000 awarded to them by the Government, if they claimed it within two years from the date of the instrument, which was furnished to them when the grant was made. The two years would, he thought, expire on the 2nd of March next. Now, if they were not in circumstances to claim this £7,000 by that time, the Government would be, no doubt, honourably exonerated from their engagement. They might say they would give an extension of the time if they could show a cause for it. If Lord Lansdowne were then the President of the Council, and Sir James Shuttleworth were in office, then he thought they might have an extension of time; but if the present Government should change, or if there should be an inquiry instituted by the House of Commons (which it was said there was to be,) as to the appropriation of these grants, then it might put them in very great peril, if they had not themselves sufficient means to keep the covenant, or come within its bond. He was therefore anxious that they should, by next March, be in circumstances to say that they were prepared to claim the £7,000 that was granted to them. Now, in order to do this, they must be prepared to say to Government that, when they have received £7,000, it would cover all expenses, and settle every account connected with the erection of those buildings. He should be very sorry to go with a sort of pleading that they could borrow money in order to complete it, which they could realize some time or another. These were the reasons that he would assign to the meeting and the Conference, why, between then and Christmas, or between then and next March, they should raise £4,000—(hear, hear)—and he thought he had a very good ground of appeal to his friends then present, to originate such a subscription as would enable them to realize that sum. He granted that the moneys which were found available came from the pockets of their friends in former years. He granted that the £5,000, with which the site of these premises was purchased, was the money produced by the Centenary grant; but they had received nothing specifically for those buildings but just that £4,000—buildings that would, from first to last, not cost less than £31,000 or £32,000. He thought, therefore, the Connexion would have been taxed very lightly, when they considered the object; and he trusted that this application would be received kindly and generously by their friends. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by earnestly recommending to the friends then present that something should be done that night. (Cheers.)

After some conversation between Mr. HEALD, the Rev. JOHN SCOTT, and Mr. VASEY, as to the amount of the funds in hand, and the source from whence they were derived,—

Mr. JAMES HEALD, M.P., said—In the first place, nothing could have been more gratifying to him than that, when entering, for the first time in his life, these premises, the first note which sounded in his ears should

cessary to meet it, especially among those who held erroneous views on the subject. If the President would take up the subject at his own proper time, not only would the cause of God be thereby promoted, but it would also tend very materially to place the question on its proper basis. What was wanted among our people was an official treatise, which had received the sanction of the Conference.... The Rev. J. M'LEAN thought they would not gain much by dealing with details. Their best business would be to bring to bear the testimony of God's word on it. It was wholesome to keep the old and scriptural doctrines.... Mr. HEALD then moved, "that this committee being deeply convinced of the great importance, under existing circumstances, of a more full and formal declaration than has hitherto appeared of the views held by our Connexion as to the standing obligations of the Christian Sabbath, and the practical duties therewith connected, respectfully suggests to the Conference the expediency of its requesting the Rev. Thomas Jackson to prepare for publication, as early as convenient, and in such form as the Conference may judge most fitting, something which may meet the present emergency, and may be adopted as an official statement of the principles maintained by the Conference on that important subject.".. Mr. PREST seconded the resolution, which, after a few words from Mr. CROWTHER in its support, was carried unanimously.

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the ordinary Contingent Fund, and if it were stated in that way to the Connexion, many would be found ready to help. He for one should be glad to contribute to a separate fund, and let it be known that such cases would be met. Mr. FARMER wished some facts to go from that meeting which would do the Connexion good. Let it be stated that accounts were kept of the sums which had been contributed, and that such accounts were produced there. He felt at liberty to propose that a SPECIAL FUND be formed for the purpose of meeting such special cases. Mr. JOHN HARTLEY, of Wolverhampton, expressed his intention to have proposed something of that kind, if no one else did. He cordially seconded Mr. Farmer's proposition and would give fifty pounds towards the Special Fund. Mr. VANNER felt happy to build on such a foundation, and would give twenty pounds for the same excellent object. The proposal was then unanimously adopted by the Committee. The PRESIDENT observed that the time of contraries had gone by—they were all of one heart and of one mind in their determination to support Methodism. A conversation then ensued respecting the propriety of administering the fund thus raised through the ordinary Contingent Fund Committee, or by the appointment of a special Committee for that purpose, in which Mr. VICKERS, Mr. FARMER, Mr. SCOTT, Dr. NEWTON, Mr. S. JACKSON, Mr. CUSWORTH, Mr. JOBSON, and Mr. HARTLEY took part: after which it was agreed that the subject should be resumed at the adjourned meeting in the evening.

THE EVENING SITTING was commenced at six o'clock, when the further investigation of the case continued till the close of the proceedings at eight o'clock....The Rev. WM. BURT adverted to the Pamphlets which had been sent to different parts of the Connexion, from the Book room, relating to the proceedings of the last Conference, and the agitation which had prevailed, many of which had been sold, and some given away. Statements had been expressly made that these pamphlets were to be paid for out of the Contingent Fund. He should be glad to have a distinct statement from the Treasurers, whether that had been or would be the case....The Rev. J. CUSWORTH then said that he had been one of the Treasurers of that Fund for upwards of twenty years. He had never paid, and no one associated with him in that office, as Treasurer, had paid a single farthing for any such pamphlets, in any shape or form whatever, and he had never had an application made to him for any such payment....The Rev. J. STEPHENSON said he had written to Mr. Mason, the Book Steward, on the same subject. Mr. Mason distinctly denied that he had ever received anything from the Contingent Fund for any such pamphlets....Mr. J. HARTLEY put some inquiries respecting the operations of the existing regulations affecting the employment of additional Ministers, which led to an interesting conversation....Some gentlemen thought that these regulations did not work so well for the Connexion as the former plan; others expressed a contrary opinion, but no resolution was adopted respecting them....The subject of the SPECIAL FUND, and the appointment of a committee for its administration, was then resumed....Mr. GARLAND (on being requested by the President to express his opinion on the motion) said, he was not aware that the subject could be placed in any clearer light than it had been by Mr. Farmer and the speakers who had followed him; but, being thus directly appealed to, he could but express his hearty concurrence in the proposal, because, although the Contingent Fund was of very wide application, in reference to extraordinary emergencies, yet he doubted whether a case of this novel

description came legitimately within its range, and thought it would be better to raise a new fund for such special purpose, than to incur the risk of misappropriating any other. There was another reason why he favoured the proposal. He thought it desirable to give this practical demonstration to our community, that there is a reserved strength in Methodism;—a power adequate to the wants, not only of ordinary, but of extraordinary, occasions; and that, whatever contingencies of disaster might occasionally happen, this latent energy would be roused contemporaneously with them, in sufficient strength to cope with and provide for them. For these reasons alone, he should feel pleasure in contributing his mite to such a fund, and had no doubt that it would have the cordial support of our attached friends throughout the Connexion.

CHAPEL FUND, CHAPEL RELIEF, AND CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEES.

These committees, on chapel affairs, met at nine o'clock on Friday morning, July 26th. After the usual preliminaries, the report of the Chapel Fund was read by the Rev. Robert Wood. It appeared from the report, that in 266 circuits there were no subscribers of 10s. or upwards: in 59, there was only one subscriber of 10s. or upwards; in 118 circuits, there were 623 subscribers; and the total amount of subscription was £617 6s. 7d. In 183 circuits, there were no trustee subscriptions; in 130 circuits, there was one subscription in each circuit; and in the remaining 130 circuits, there were 382 trustee subscriptions, amounting to £652 5s. The aggregate of the public collections, and private and trustee subscriptions, was £4,980 7s. 1d.; last year, it was £5,319 15s. 6d.; there was therefore a deficiency of £339 8s. 5d. this year....Mr. MARRIOTT, the treasurer, said that he expected to receive considerable sums during the sittings of Conference, which would materially reduce the deficiency....The report of the CHAPEL RELIEF FUND was then read by the Rev. F. A. WEST, the general secretary. The report commenced by stating that the total amount of subscriptions and collections received during the past year, for the United Chapel and Education Fund, with interest, was £5,325 10s. 6d. Of this sum (less the common expenses,) one moiety, amounting to £2,657 3s. had been paid to the treasurer of the Education Fund. The sum of £292 was appropriated in 16 circuits to meet the deficiency of interest on borrowed money, and £2,264 16s. 9d. had been paid to the treasurer of the Chapel Relief Fund, to be allotted, by a committee of 13 ministers and 12 laymen, in grants to distressed chapels, for the purpose of enabling their trustees to liquidate a portion of their principal debt. Grants were made during the past year in 30 cases, to the amount of £2,440. In addition to this, the committee have paid grants to 52 other chapels, amounting to £6,815, by which they had not only exhausted the funds in hand, and anticipated the whole income of 1850, but had also pledged a large portion of the estimated income for 1851, and there were many cases yet without the promise of relief. The report went on to urge that, while the efforts of the trustees and friends have been commendable and great, the call was loud on the Connexion at large for a corresponding liberality, and the necessity for augmented resources had become imperative. The committee felt, that while they were only able to assist desperate cases, they were only in part fulfilling the design of the institution. They wished to encourage efforts in less serious cases, and, by a small proportional grant, to prevent their sinking into the class of all but hopeless cases. The committee pressed the claims of the trustees, for whose benefit alone the chapel

fund was instituted. Those of them who had been found faithful to their trust had become involved in pecuniary embarrassments, and they had, therefore, a just and irresistible claim on the liberal sympathy of the Connexion at large. The superiority of the present mode of meeting these distressed cases, for upwards of forty years, had become obvious. The committee, in conclusion, urged that a special appeal should be made this year, by ministers and others, to the congregations in behalf of the trustees, who, even on trying occasions, had so generally been found faithful to their trust. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. JOHN RATTENBURY complained that he, as treasurer to the Education Fund, had only received about £2000 from the Chapel Fund treasurers, who had in their hands £4980, which had placed him in considerable difficulties. It would be more convenient for him if his portion of the amount were remitted in small sums, and not retained until it had reached a large amount.... The Rev. ROBERT WOOD assured Mr. Rattenbury that he transmitted all the sums for the Education Fund as fast as they came to his hands. He (Mr. Wood) had on several occasions remitted considerable sums of his own money to that Fund; and he showed that he had acted strictly according to the resolutions of Conference.... After some further conversation and explanation, the subject dropped; and the committee proceeded to make various grants to chapels, after hearing and investigating their respective claims.

The Rev. F. A. WEST said, that the union of the Chapel and Education interests had assumed a serious aspect. Some of the cases of the chapels which had been brought under their consideration that morning were of the most urgent nature, and the very existence of Methodism in the localities where they were situated depended upon the help the Conference would grant them. (Hear, hear.) The committee were aware of an intimation that was given two years ago, that the Chapel Relief Committee would be anxious, when the proper period arrived, to dissolve this union. He wished that immediate steps should be taken to consider the many cases of great emergency for relief; and he thought the best plan would be to refer the matter to the Conference, and to request that a committee should be appointed which would enter fully into this important question.... The Rev. J. FOWLER said that he was not much surprised to hear that dissatisfaction was expressed respecting the union of the two funds. However, as the compact had been entered into for seven years, at the expiration of which period matters would revert to their original form, and as they were now in the sixth year of that union, he did not see the necessity of entering upon the question at present.... The Rev. J. SCOTT said that, if their lives were spared, on Monday next they would see what had been done in furtherance of the educational movement. He perfectly concurred with Mr. West that Conference should appoint a committee to investigate the whole question. Next February would terminate the period of the union, and, by the following Conference, some decided steps should be taken in reference to this exceedingly important question. Through uncommon efforts, they had got rid of a great number of very bad chapel cases. By stimulating and encouraging trustees, they might accomplish still more. They had still very bad cases remaining, which it was not at all desirable should linger on their hands year after year—(hear, hear)—but be at once relieved.... Mr. WEST said that there was now a special call made on them to help a great number of cases, for the welfare of the Connexion depended on the relief that was given, so that trustees might see that they were disposed to meet them on fair and equitable terms.

The PRESIDENT then read a resolution, which was to the effect that Conference be requested to appoint an efficient committee, for the purpose of devising means of meeting cases of distressed chapels, and of spreading our system of education.

The report of the CHAPEL BUILDING COMMITTEE was then read by the Rev. WM. KELK. It commenced by expressing their satisfaction at the marked and cheering progress chapel building had made in the preceding year, notwithstanding the unhappy agitation which had prevailed in the Connexion during the year, which might have interrupted and paralyzed chapel building. The number of applications made to the committee since last Conference was 106. Of these, 52 were for new chapels, 26 for enlargements, 10 for school houses, 6 for organs, and 12 for sales. Of these, 87 had been allowed, namely, 41 new chapels, 23 enlargements, 8 schools, 6 organs, and 9 sales. Out of the 72 chapels and schools allowed to be built or enlarged, 25 were either to be free from debt or the debt was not to be increased.... The entire cost of the buildings allowed by the committee was estimated at £38,699 18s. The same item in the report of last year was £21,275, showing an advance of no less than £17,424. This was no evidence that the confidence of our people in the institutions of Methodism was abated—(applause)—or that they had any misgivings as to the security of our chapel property. (Hear, hear.) The amount of debt on the above outlay was £9,568, and the expected income £1,880 9s.... The returns of buildings completed within the year were still more encouraging, amounting to 100. Of these, 57 were completed according to rule, 23 had received no sanction from the committee, and in 26 cases the final debt had exceeded the sum agreed on. Of the 57 cases in which rule had been observed, there were 25 new chapels, 18 enlargements, 4 school houses, and 4 organs, the aggregate cost of which was £13,452 6s. 7d. In 33 cases out of the 51, no debt had been incurred; and on the remainder, the debt amounted to only £945,—while the annual income realised was £380. In 26 cases, the actual debts were £4,323 17s. 11d. above those agreed upon. With the exception of two cases, this class of chapels showed an improvement on the corresponding class of last year. The committee regretted that they should have to report that 23 cases of erections and enlargements should have taken place, without their sanction, especially as 12 out of the 23 were financially good, and would have received their cheerful consent had it been solicited. (Hear, hear.) The total cost in this class of cases, was £3,961; the debt £1,362;—and the annual income £167 11s.... The Committee regretted that more progress had not been made in the department of school buildings, only four such buildings having been erected during the year, one of which, however, was deserving of honourable mention. In the First Manchester Circuit, at Redbank, Francis Parnell, Esq., had erected a most commodious and beautiful school, which cost him £1,000 which he had presented to the Connexion entirely free from debt; (hear, hear;) the Committee, therefore, respectfully suggested that this case deserved the special thanks of the Conference. At Funley, also, in the Stroud Circuit, a chapel had been built and presented to the Connexion by John Hancock, Esq., (hear, hear,) but the Committee had not been furnished with any particulars respecting it. The Committee constantly made inquiries, in their revised schedules of applications for new chapels, as to what provision was intended for the accommodation of the poor, and of the children of our Sunday and Day-schools; and they specially recommended, that the provision for the poor in the new chapels should not

only be ample but as comfortable as possible. In conclusion, the Committee could not help reverting, with peculiar feelings of satisfaction, to the progress which had been made in the erection and enlargement of chapels free from debt; they trusted that this movement, in the right direction would steadily advance, in order both to enable persons in humble circumstances to take sittings at a reduced charge, and also that the income available from the larger chapels might be appropriated to the increase of the Ministry,—an object which every day's experience showed to be necessary to full and efficient Pastoral oversight.

Mr. KELK then proceeded to read the general statements contained in the schedules. This led to a conversation concerning the excess of debt on Poplar Chapel, beyond what had been allowed, and which, it appeared, had arisen almost wholly out of extravagant expenditure on the organ. Mr. FARMER said, that it would place things in their right position, and save a great deal of unpleasant discussion, if it was expressed, at their District meetings, that they considered organs as extras, and that it was not essential to the worship of God to have them in our chapels. (Hear, hear.) If friends thought proper to have organs, they should be told that the expenses attending their erection must be defrayed, irrespective of the amount required for the buildings themselves; and that they would best show the importance they attached to organs, by diligence in collecting subscriptions for them. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. C. PREST said, that the erection of organs without adequate funds, was the infliction of an evil that was perpetually occurring, and one which frequently involved chapel funds in serious difficulties. Mr. VANNER said, the plain fact of the case was, that the parties who advocated the introduction of organs were those who had been enlisted in the scheme. Let them see who was to pay for the organs, and the evil would soon cease;—the expenses consequent on the erection of organs should not belong to the trust fund at all. In an instance with which he had been immediately connected, the erection of an organ had been treated strictly in the manner recommended. Mr. WALKER thought, that a resolution condemning the erection of organs without the necessary funds, should be passed at once. Mr. PREST said that the organ cases, which had been brought under their notice, should be reported to Conference, that it might be shown that there was a sufficient power of discipline.

Votes of thanks were passed to the officers and others, and the business of the Committee then closed.

THE BOOK COMMITTEE.

This Committee met on Friday, July 26th, at Five o'clock. The Book Steward, the Rev. J. MASON, read the report, which, considering the circumstances of the Connexion during the past year, was highly gratifying. It stated that, in the sales of the books, there had in some instances been an increase. Subsequently a vote of thanks was passed to the President for his admirable pamphlet published shortly after the last Conference. The PRESIDENT, in reply, said, that he had seen an observation—he believed it was in the *Watchman*—that he had begun to stoop. Let it, however, be distinctly understood that, however he might be disposed to stoop on one point, he would never stoop to radicalism. (Hear, hear.) A demand was made that they should put the pastoral office into commission; but it was a duty no less enjoined on the ministry to exercise the pastoral rule than to preach the gospel. (Hear, hear.)

AUXILIARY FUND COMMITTEE.

This Committee, for considering and relieving cases of special distress among supernumerary ministers and their families, met on Saturday morning, July 27th. The proceedings were not of public interest.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

This Committee met at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. After the usual devotional exercises, the Rev. ROBERT NEWSTEAD read the report of the Committee. It began by stating, that there was a general opinion, founded on many pleasing facts, that there never was a period in the history of this country when the doctrine of the Sabbath attracted such universal attention; although perhaps there never was a time when the question of Sabbath sanctification was surrounded with more anxious circumstances. The wide diffusion of the Sabbath Prize Essays, and the attempt that had been made to innovate on the sanctity of the Sabbath at the General Post Office, in October last, had most materially contributed to awaken the public mind to the importance of the subject. The Lord's Day Society had liberally offered to place all its efficient agency, throughout the land, at the disposal of the Committee, which had greatly assisted them in procuring petitions to Parliament from remote places, that, no doubt, effectually contributed to the result which happily followed,—the suspension of postmen's labour on the Sabbath, in consequence of the success of Lord Ashley's motion, on the 3rd of June. In accordance with the decision of the House of Commons, the collection and delivery of letters and newspapers, on Sunday, ceased on the 23rd of June last. Subsequently, the Committee had forwarded a petition, signed by the President of the Conference and the people of our Connexion, against Mr. Locke's motion. On the 9th of June, the Committee forwarded a memorial through the proper channel, to her Majesty the Queen, expressive of their gratitude for the great boon that had been conferred on the postmen, in consequence of her Majesty consenting to the address of the House of Commons. The memorial had been honoured with the usual gracious acknowledgement, by Sir George Grey. Since that period, Lord Ashley had had transmitted to him 237 addresses, for presentation to the Queen. It was with great regret, that the Committee had observed that an attempt, mainly through the clamour of the Sunday newspaper press, had been made to have the order rescinded. Happily, Mr. Locke's motion was lost, although the Committee feared that they would not ultimately secure all they desired. The Committee recommended that multitudes of petitions and memorials should be presented, praying that the present measure should be fairly tried, so that the country might form an opinion from experience of its beneficial operation. The Committee favourably alluded to the Sunday Trading Bill, which had passed the House of Lords, and had been read for the second time in the House of Commons; but deeply lamented the systematic efforts that were carried on by Railway Companies throughout the country, to run trains on the Sabbath day more recklessly than ever.

Mr. HEALD, M. P., (interrupting Mr. Newstead,) said that great efforts had been made by Railway Companies at Manchester, to divert the children from the Sunday Schools, by carrying them at cheap fares to distant places; but he was happy to say that that had now ceased. The people of Manchester had made a strong demonstration on the subject, and had succeeded in preventing its revival. (Hear, hear.) Another pleasing fact,

presented to the committee. A large number of books had been transmitted to Feejee. £300 worth of paper had been gratuitously given the society by the British and Foreign Bible Society, for printing the New Testament, the Proverbs, and the Psalms in the Kaffir language. In consequence of a statement repeatedly made in the *Wesleyan Times*, involving the correctness of the account respecting Jamaica, to the amount of thousands of pounds, a correspondence on the subject had taken place with the missionaries, and a memorial relating to it had been received, extracts from which, and also from the correspondence, the committee had recommended to be published in the *Watchman*, in order to put an end to the fallacious report. (During the reading of this part, Dr. Bunting interrupted Dr. Beecham by saying, "Kaye's Times." Dr. Beecham accordingly read "Kaye's Times.") The sum of £5,000 had been transmitted to the Rev. Mr. Freeman, for carrying on the mission work at Cape Coast, and other distant places.

The Rev. Dr. ALDER observed that the pecuniary difficulties which had overtaken the missions in Canada, did not originate in any failure, or in any diminution of energy upon the part of the friends in that country, but were simply owing to the colonial government not having fulfilled their promises. Since then, however, he was happy to say the promises had been fulfilled, and the pecuniary difficulties had therefore ceased. (Cheers.)

The reading of the minutes was continued. In consequence of certain statements having been put forth, to the effect that the money of the society had been misappropriated, and that there was a want of proper management at the Mission-house, the committee had held several special meetings; and, for the information of new members, and the satisfaction of old ones, the general system of management, had been brought under review, with the view of seeing whether any errors had been committed, and, if so, to guard against them in future. After a careful review, the following resolutions were adopted on the subject:—"That the committee are fully satisfied as to the care and ability with which the financial affairs of this society have been and are conducted. (Cheers). That, in reference to some specific imputations brought against the financial system, and the alleged malversation of the funds, the committee solemnly declares its conviction that this imputation and allegation are unfounded in truth and fact, and their continued publication pronounces them to be unjust as well as calumnious. That, after carefully investigating the manner in which the books and accounts of the society are kept, this committee is satisfied that the present system does afford the society a reasonable security that their funds have not been, or can be, wasted." These resolutions were signed by the committee, "Thomas Jackson, President," on November 9, 1849. Then followed this appendix:—"We, the undersigned members of the special committee, having been unavoidably absent when the resolutions of the 9th of November were passed, nevertheless, from our knowledge of the accounts, express our full and entire concurrence with the resolutions in question;" and then followed their names.

JAMES HEALD, Esq., M.P., who had shortly before entered the meeting amid loud and long-continued cheers, rose before the reading of the accounts had been concluded, and addressed the meeting to the following effect:—"I am sorry, Mr. President, to interpose between the secretary and the meeting, and to interrupt the ordinary course of proceeding; but I am placed in very peculiar circumstances to-day, and I therefore ven-

ture for a moment to throw myself on the kind indulgence of the meeting. (Hear, hear.) Most of my friends are aware that very important business is now going on in the House of Commons, involving the admission of Jews into Parliament; and with all my love for Methodism—and in that respect I am not prepared to yield to any member of the body now present—(cheers)—I feel that there are duties incumbent on me which prevent my continuing long at this meeting. I therefore have to request, as a special indulgence, (and I hope the meeting will grant it,) that for this time and at this moment of the proceedings of the day, we may depart from the usual course, and come at once to a subject in which I have taken some humble part, and in which we all feel a deep interest, and by a careful consideration of which I venture to express my belief that the interests of this great Society will be considerably advanced. (Applause.) You will anticipate that I allude to the annual balance sheet of the Society's accounts for the past year, and especially to the audit of the accounts which has taken place under the careful and able superintendence and investigation of gentlemen who were appointed to this especial office in this important year of our history. (Hear.) I had the honour of being requested to associate myself with these respectable auditors in the first instance on a careful consideration and determination what should be the principle and extent of the audit, and I felt a little anxious to be present when they made their report, and I shall be prepared to join them in giving any explanation which may be considered necessary by the meeting; and I have no doubt on my own mind that the more ample the explanations shall be, the more unmixed will be the satisfaction of all present. (Hear, hear.) I am not aware what will be the best form of entering into this portion of our proceedings; but perhaps I may at once proceed, without any formality or ceremony, to make a few prefatory observations. (Hear.) The auditors are present. Mr. Smith, of Sheffield, who came up purposely to meet them before they took a single step in the prosecution of their duties, is also present. I am prepared to say that the result of the audit will prove to every man of business that it has been conducted on such a principle that it will bear comparison with the most careful and judicious audit of any accounts of similar magnitude in connexion with any other kindred Society. (Cheers.) I will venture to say that the auditors—both the gentlemen officially appointed and those who were called in to concert with them the best plan of an audit—ultimately agreed upon a plan to be observed with respect to the investigation of the accounts of the Society for 1849. (Hear, hear.) This balance sheet, as you will find in the first place, is made up of two sides—debtor and creditor. Now, as to the income of the Society, I don't think we need spend much time in making observations upon the particulars of which it is composed. The meeting is well aware that it consists of a great variety of items; but there is this peculiarity about it, that although the whole sum is composed of an almost infinite number of particulars, all these particulars, as well as the gross balance itself, are given in ample detail in this report. (Hear, hear.) Now, I am prepared to take this view of the case—that this report checks itself as far as the credit side of the balance sheet is concerned. There is not a gross sum received from any district, but there is a gross sum of the miscellaneous contributions to the Parent Society. There are various other sums ranged under different heads, all which gross sums are set forth in this small type. It is in fact a detailed account of the pence, and shillings, and pounds subscribed. (Hear.) Now, I

consider, that when our treasurers put forth a balance sheet, and state that they have received £111,685 as the income of the Society for the year 1849, and with which for the time being they are placed by us in trust, that in the statements which precede the balance sheet they give a public declaration to the entire community of Wesleyan Methodists, and to all others the friends of Wesleyan Methodism, and of Wesleyan Missions in particular, whose contributions help to swell the gross amount, that they have received this sum from you. (Hear, hear.) And the smallest contributor to the Wesleyan Methodist Society has a document before him which addresses him in these words:—"We hold ourselves answerable as your trustees in trust of your property to the use of the Wesleyan Missionary Society for such a sum of money, and we give you the opportunity of saying whether you gave more." (Hear, hear.) The world is silent on the subject. (Applause.) If any man sees that he is wronged on that side of the balance sheet—if any man feels that he is wronged and does not say so, it is his own fault. (Cheers.) But, in the absence of all such statements, I hold that this side of the balance sheet is attested to be correct by Wesleyan and by national assent,—(hear, hear.)—because it shows the contributions to the common object of the members of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, whether they be Wesleyan Methodists or members of the Church of England, or members of any other section of the Christian Church, in this or any other country. (Applause.) It addresses itself equally to the Government. It accounts for the grants we have received for various objects from the Government of the country, whether from the home Government or the narrow colonial Governments in different parts of the world; and we have clear evidence that the treasurers, so far as the receipts of the money are concerned, are correct—that they stand approved in the sight of God and man. (Cheers.) Their conduct will bear the searching of a sunbeam, and there is no doubt that all the money given for the object has been received by them, and is held in trust by them for its right appropriation by them under the direction of the committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. (Hear, hear.) Having briefly disposed of one side of the balance sheet, I will now come to the other. There is a great peculiarity in our expenditure, as indeed there is in almost everything connected with Wesleyan Methodism. It is a cause of our own. (Hear, hear.) It is a cause not created by ourselves; but as the money on the credit side of the balance sheet is committed in trust, so I conceive that Wesleyan Methodism, with all its peculiarities, while it is not our creation, is a creation committed to us equally in trust. (Hear, hear.) And therefore it would be very unwise—it would not tend to throw light on this case to compare strictly, technically, the character and particulars of the balance sheet, on the expenditure side, with the case of any other kindred society. Now, there is one peculiarity which will strike us all in a moment, as it struck the auditors. Although they spent, in the first instance, three or four hours in deciding upon the best mode of conducting their audit, yet this peculiarity struck us in a moment. I have heard something said,—we all have—it is no secret—and therefore I shall not treat it as such—(hear, hear)—that we ought to be excessively jealous lest there be any personal aggrandisement, or personal interest, or personal motives, in the appropriation of this large sum of money. (Hear, hear.) Well, I admit that to the full. I am as jealous of that as any man, and I hesitate not to say so in the presence of my honoured fathers in the ministry, and of my brethren the members of the Wesleyan

family. (Loud applause.) I tell you one thing, Mr. President and my Christian friends, that if I am not to find a Christian brotherhood here, I do not know where to look for it. (Continued cheers.) There is, as I have said, one peculiar feature which struck us in a moment—three-fourths of our gross expenditure is foreign. Now, I am prepared to maintain, that if this position were controverted, I hope I should succeed in proving, that on three-fourths of our expenditure, without any auditors whatever, the committee who sit here are the most judicious and faithful checks upon anything like waste or extravagance that any society can possess. (Hear, hear.) They have no interest in the matter. They sit here and receive the accounts from foreign stations and the district returns, and then, with eagle eye, search through the whole, as is apparent from the Minutes which you have heard. Can it be said that the committee generally allow too much? (No, no.) Are the cases of frequent and proved distress and suffering on the part of the labourers, their wives, and families, treated with too great liberality? (No, no.) I trow not, and I think you agree with me. Why, then, as a general principle, on three-fourths of the money there is no opportunity to embezzle, and no interest in sanctioning the useless expenditure of a single penny. (Hear, hear.) Now, is not that a striking fact? (Hear, hear.) We must not listen to the little whisperings about small matters which are circulating on every side, but take a broad view of a great question like this. (Hear, hear.) I maintain that narrow views of these great matters are not consistent with carrying them on aright. (Hear, hear.) Then we come to what may be properly called our domestic expenditure. That is an expenditure incurred by the committee at home, and I don't think they will shirk it. (Hear, hear.) I am very much mistaken if they would screen themselves from the most careful and minute investigation of every portion of their proceedings. We agreed to investigate every item of which the domestic expenditure is composed, that there should be as minute, and full, and faithful an investigation of these accounts as can take place in any society or in any corporation. (Cheers.) I know something of these matters. I have had to deal with large bodies of proprietors, and far larger amounts than this. Where you have dealt with ten thousand, I have dealt with millions, and I have tried to introduce the principle of audit used in banking into this matter of our missionary expenditure—(hear, hear)—and I believe that auditors are prepared to tell you this day that they have examined the vouchers too—(applause)—that they have gone through the entire system of book-keeping, and the result is that they have found a faithful representation of the state of the society's funds both as to the receipts and the expenditure. Having made these few observations, I shall now leave the matter in the hands of the auditors themselves, who will tell you the impression left on their minds. (Applause.) I will just observe, that although this has been a particular examination, I don't think it has been more particular than the examination which ought always to take place, for we cannot be too careful of our reputation in this respect. I am quite confident that the time spent in such examinations is most beneficially occupied for the interests of the Society. I don't wish it to be said that this is a special examination for this particular year. It is certainly a little in advance of last year, but it is only a step in the direction which I hope to see followed and embraced into our system, and that from year to year we shall have wise and faithful men to audit our accounts, and that such audit will be fully conducted, as it has been this year. (Loud and repeated cheers.)

The PRESIDENT then called on the auditors to present the report.

Mr. KRUSE.—The auditors have drawn up a very short report, because they thought it would be most acceptable; but I hope you will find it to the purpose, and after the details to which you have just listened, I think you will conclude that a long report is quite unnecessary. The following is the report:—The auditors of the accounts of the above society for the year ending the 31st of December, 1849, entered into the required examination on Thursday the 6th of June, 1850, and continued it by successive meetings through several days. In prosecuting this duty each separate entry was inspected, in the order in which it appears on the balance sheet, proceeding regularly through; first in reference to the debit, or receipt side of the account, and then to that for expenditure. These entries passed under review in the following order:—Contributions received at the Mission House; the accounts from Auxiliary Societies in Great Britain; those from Ireland through the Hibernian Society; from Juvenile Christmas and New Year's Offerings; and from Foreign Districts and Stations. The remaining assets were found comprised under the term of miscellaneous, consisting of Colonial Grants for Schools and other purposes, dividends, donations, legacies, and gifts for specified and prospective purposes, such as a mission to China. The whole of these were inspected, *seriatim*; and in the opinion of the auditors are faithfully recorded and brought to account. Having thus far proceeded, the auditors directed their attention to the credit, or expenditure side of the account. This covers a large surface, and includes altogether a statement of minute and amplified outlay. The account opens, of course, with the balance in advance of the previous year. That is followed by "sundry payments on account of mission stations, outfits, passage, and return of missionaries," beginning with Ireland, and sweeping over the entire field of operation in various parts of the world. Without entering into minute detail, which would swell the present report to an immoderate length, the auditors will simply state that the whole of these expenses has been looked at, and carefully considered through every stage; and that it is found to be correctly inserted. Its importance will be seen when it is recollected that, taken as a head of expenditure, it embraces the purchase of articles, and providing necessaries for long missionary voyages, followed by a residence on foreign soil; and that the total amount is nearly equal to four-fifths of the entire income or expenditure of the society. Having completed an examination of the expenditure for foreign objects, *that* embraced in the management of the *Home Department* was taken up. The heads of this portion of expenditure, like those already described, were examined singly, and found correct. The auditors beg to add, as a remark applying generally to payments made by the society during the current year, that they have seen the vouchers, consisting either of cancelled bills of exchange, stamp receipts, or other satisfactory discharge, and that the method of account keeping at the Mission House is both sound and good. In conclusion, the auditors venture to suggest that it would be advisable to introduce the plan of a half-yearly audit. They can now testify by experience the amount of time and labour absolutely required to conduct, to a satisfactory conclusion, such an audit as they have engaged in and prosecuted this year. They believe that some advantage of importance would result to the financial department of the Missionary Society by such an arrangement, and would be a great convenience to the parties appointed from year to year to audit the accounts. I (continued Mr. Kruse) wish just to make

one remark, in justice to all concerned. During the whole of this lengthened examination, we have had the personal assistance of the secretaries and clerks whenever we required their attendance, and every book and paper and document, of every kind, requisite to give an insight into all that has taken place, was freely produced. (Loud applause.)

Mr. CORDEROY having been loudly called for, rose and said,—I am one of the auditors, and I am a party to the report which has just been presented to the meeting, and I am fully prepared to attest the correctness of the accounts—(applause)—as far as I can possibly judge from a careful examination of the books and documents which have been presented to me. (Applause.) I consider that my responsibility ceased when I had examined every item, both of debit and credit. I find that there is a perfect agreement in the whole, and the result is as we have stated it in the balance brought down, a sum due to the treasurers. (Applause.) I consider that, as an auditor, I am not at all responsible for the administration of the funds of this society, and therefore if you think the committee too liberal in its expenditure, I have nothing to do with that. (Hear, hear.) As a member of the committee I am perfectly ready to share in any responsibility which may attach to us. I am a very young member, and am just learning my business; but I will say that during my connection with the committee, I have met with nothing whatever to abate the confidence which I formerly felt—(loud applause)—in the integrity and uprightness of the executive of the society. (Loud cheers.) I have my own views as a member of the committee with respect to some matters of detail connected with the management of the society, and I have ventured to express those views, which have been received with great kindness on the part of those to whom my observations were specially applicable. (Hear, hear.) I believe it is the wish of the committee to introduce any improvements which may be fully and fairly stated, if they are likely to prove beneficial to the society—(applause)—and calculated to render its action more efficient, and to give more security, if such a thing be possible. (Applause.) I do not know that I need add anything to what I have stated. I will only pledge my zeal and love to the society afresh, assuring you that whatever of effort and contribution I can offer to the society shall be most cheerfully accorded. (Cheers.)

Mr. SHARPLEY, of Louth, here rose to ask a question.

The President informed him that the time for putting questions had not yet arrived.

Mr. VANNER, in responding to the call of the meeting, said—I am exceedingly glad to be able to state to this meeting, that my satisfaction is as great and as well founded as that of my colleagues in the investigation which has taken place. (Applause.) I have not entered into the business without looking thoroughly into it, without weighing everything in the most careful manner; and I must say that more accurate accounts—accounts more likely to lead to detection, if there was anything wrong, cannot be found in any merchant's house in this city. (Loud applause.) It so happens that my own accounts are kept on the very same system. I do not hesitate to say that I was for some years in search of a system which should easily detect any error, any mis-entry, any slip that might be made in my books, and I think I have found it. Your books, as I have said, are kept on the same plan, and I therefore say they are not likely to be indifferently kept, and that they can be easily understood by any accountant or man of business. (Applause.) I must add that every

facility has been shown to us in our investigation—that we have had all the papers and books we could desire, and after signing these accounts, I can say with perfect truth that I can lay my head down on my pillow with a good conscience. (Loud applause.)

Mr. SMITH, of Sheffield said—From the position which he occupied, he was intimately acquainted with the executive of the society, and he should have been perfectly able to have detected any want of honesty if such a thing had existed. (Hear.) The impression which must have been made by the statements and remarks of Mr. Heald, and by the auditors, must be satisfactory in the highest degree. (Applause.) He had never met with a more business-like set of men than the auditors, and he was sure the knowledge which every one entertained of the character which Mr. Heald had established in the world, was a sufficient guarantee that the accounts of the society had been fully investigated. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HEALD again presented himself for the purpose of moving a resolution, and placing a distinct proposition before the meeting. I would ask (said the hon. member) what is the secret of our power in the country? It is our connexional principle. (Loud applause.) This great principle, in my humble opinion, is God's construction. It is the great and distinguishing feature of our section of the Christian church—it is the pivot on which we turn. It is a mighty principle, fraught with tremendous consequences for good or evil. If we are faithful to it, and rightly apply it, it will for the future, as it has done for the past, tend to our good. If we allow it to be abused by being used as an instrument for agitation, we need nothing else to subvert the temple and bury it in ruins. (Hear, hear.) I wish to warn myself in all the schemes that are proposed under the designation of reform, that I must test them all by this great principle. (Applause.) If I wish to become a Congregationalist, I can go to that church. But I love Wesleyan Methodism, and I feel that all the influence which I can exert on a large scale in connection with our Christian church, comes to me as a Wesleyan Methodist on the connexional principle. (Hear, hear.) This is the secret of our influence in this country, and all over the globe. (Applause.) Why is it that I, as a Wesleyan Methodist, should be disturbed by any real or imaginary grievances in any distant locality? How comes it that my peace and my quiet, and my happy connections with the Christian church, as a Methodist, should feel any shock at any distant part of our wide connexion? It is because we are linked together, bound together, in common bonds. (Applause.) The secret is in the connexional principle, by which you can touch a chord that vibrates through the whole of our people. (Hear.) The House of Commons is astonished to find, when any great principle is started, affecting the interests of religion, that we can, as with one voice, instantly approach the legislature. (Hear.) This was a peculiarity that was never known before the days of Wesleyan Methodism. (Hear.) Therefore it is that the eyes of this country, and of the world, are resting with intense attention upon you. There is nothing that I deprecate more than any attempt that threatens to disturb our union. I would not for the world be the man to disturb this great principle. (Loud applause.) It is this principle which renders our Missionary system so important. No government can pass by or treat with neglect our missionary work. They feel our agency and acknowledge our influence everywhere. There is not an important colony of the British crown where our missionaries are not taking a firm hold.

Wherever our missions go we are establishing a sound principle, and a system of truth such as the world never saw before, and that is my glory as a Methodist. (Applause.) I now beg to move that this meeting has received with great satisfaction the report of the auditors, fully approves of the mode in which the audit has been conducted, as well as rejoices that its confidence in the integrity of the executive of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society is both justified and confirmed by it, and feels called upon to renew its pledges of fidelity to the great work which Almighty God has entrusted to the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion in this important department of its labours. Mr. Heald then retired, amidst loud cheering, after heartily shaking hands with the president, and in his person with all the members of the committee.

Mr. SMITH seconded, and Mr. CROOK, of Liverpool, briefly supported the resolution.

Mr. JOHN W. GABRIEL then rose, and said that he had listened to the speech of the hon. member for Stockport with much attention, and he felt great pleasure in saying that he could go with him in the greater part of the remarks that he had made. Mr. Heald adverted to the credit side of the balance-sheet, and declared his confidence that all that had been received had been set down; so did he. (Hear, hear.) He referred to the expenditure side, and was sure all had been paid that was charged; so was he. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Heald believed the officers of the society to be men of integrity and uprightness; so did he—(hear, hear)—and he wished distinctly and at once to say, that he believed that the balance sheet was correct as far as it went, but it did not go far enough; and also to declare that he believed the administrators to be men of integrity and uprightness. (Hear.) Born as he was of Methodist parents—trained to be a Methodist—having been a Methodist all his life, and having seen their goings out and comings in, he was sure that those men who managed the affairs of the society were not the men to do that which was palpably wrong; but still it was quite possible that all this might exist, and yet that matters might be much better managed than they were. It was clear, that whilst the integrity of the balance sheet might be maintained, yet there were items in that balance sheet that led to other considerations; for instance, the charge for interest being a sum of £2,822, must be for large amounts of money on loan. He had taken great pains to learn the facts accurately; had written to Mr. Hoole, requesting an interview, but had been curtly referred to the treasurers and auditors. He went to one of the auditors, who received him as he was sure to do, as a Christian and a gentleman, but being unable to answer the queries, asked for them in writing, and promised his best attention to them. He had sent the queries, and although he was sure the auditor had done his best, still many queries were returned, "Can't say." He wrote then to Mr. Farmer, who said he would do his best against the meeting, but up to that time he had not received the desired information. Under these circumstances he had done what he could to supply the facts, and he gave them, subject to their being probably inaccurate, but most likely under rather than over. It could not be said that the queries were unsuitable or unnecessary, for Mr. Farmer had promised to get them ready by the meeting, and Mr. Corderoy saw no objection to the whole of them being answered. The one was a prince in our Israel, and the other the pride of our London Methodism—(hear, hear);— so that, with two such testimonies, no one could find fault with his investigations. His great point was, that the Mission House had too much borrowed money,

and consequently paid too much for interest. If his calculations were right, they had from the

Theological Institution	£10,000
Fund for Widows and Orphans of Missionaries	10,000
Irish Schools	6,000
A Friend	5,000
A Lady.....	2,000
Other sums, say	11,000

£44,000,

besides funded property to the amount of £28,000. Now, supposing that the months of June, July, August, September, and October were deficient in their receipts, that the expenditure far exceeded the income, it would be necessary to borrow, but in November they would be equal; in December the receipts would preponderate; and in January and February they would be so heavy as to enable the treasurers to pay off the loans, excepting the debts, &c.; and on the 28th of February they ought to have a large sum in hand.

The Rev. J. SCOTT rose and said that Mr. Gabriel overlooked the payments for January and February.

MR. GABRIEL was obliged to Mr. Scott for the remark, as it enabled him to say that he could not understand how these two months, with proper management, could have any serious expenditure legitimately belonging to 1850. Say they owed

£44,000

There would then be a reduction of the debt.....

£10,800

And loans owing by foreign chapels, say.....

7,000

£17,800

leaving a balance of£26,200

besides the funded property. Now one of his queries went to ascertain this fact; and it must be remembered that the sum of £2,822 for interest, at four per cent., would pay for £70,000 for the whole of twelve months. The missionary stations provided a considerable amount themselves; for the year 1849,

They had in grants from the government.....£ 5,901

They raised in contributions..... 16,068

£21,969

whilst the gross total of expenditure in these stations was £68,745, from which deduct their own provision of £21,969, and the result would be £66,776, or about £5,500 per month; but as the drafts for 1850 ought not to begin before the year, and as the bills drawn on the stations would take some three or four weeks for their sale and transmission to this country, and would then be at thirty days after sight or more, it was certain that they could not be matured before March, so that, if properly managed, the payments on account of the year ought not to be great until March or April, and each month's drafts would not be matured until some two or three months afterwards. He contended, therefore, that there was an unnecessarily large amount of borrowed money, which in itself was a great evil, but the more so as it involved so large a cost in the shape of interest. There was the item also of £1,500 per annum for the training of native agents; but to whom it was paid, or how it was

allocated, or whether all was spent, or more than the amount was spent, nothing was said. This large sum was appropriated every year, but no particulars were given. Now he contended that they could not be too plain and explicit in their accounts. There ought to be no secrecy, and every necessary information ought to be afforded; and where such large sums were in question, and in a public institution, the constituency had a right to require minute and detailed accounts; and appendices ought to be given showing the amount of the funded property, the training grant of £1,500 per annum, and all moneys borrowed on the faith of the society. He could not but look at the £4,161 spent in local charges as too high; the greater part of this was spent on deputations, and it ought to be reduced and a great saving effected. As to the great praise which the auditors gave to the system of book-keeping in the establishment he could not concur. The system might or might not be good; but certainly, as he saw it, no great praise ought to be given to it; but he was unwilling to go farther, and would therefore withhold. (Cries of "Name, name.")

The PRESIDENT: Say all you have to say, Mr. Gabriel. (Hear.)

Mr. GABRIEL: Well, as they were one family, and they required it to be told, he would tell that the invoices for two whole years—1848 and 1849—were not entered in any ledger, not even put upon the invoice-book; but such as it is, they had not even kept up to their own system. He thought also it was very desirable that the secretaries should not remain in office for an indefinite period.

The PRESIDENT here rose and said that the subject was not now under consideration, and was not at all referred to in the resolution. If Mr. Gabriel had anything to propose by way of amendment to the resolution, he could do so.

Mr. GABRIEL said he would conclude by moving the following series of resolutions, by way of rider to the original motion. He then read the following propositions *seriatim*; but he was interrupted by Dr. Bunting, who rose and made some remarks about their unconstitutional character, which prevented Mr. Gabriel from going through to the end. "Resolved,—That the conference be requested to take into their early consideration the following suggestions in reference to the missions:—1st. That the balance sheet exhibit in future the total amount of receipts and expenditure from the districts. 2nd. That it is desirable to lessen very materially the cost of deputations. 3rd. That the amount of moneys on interest in the mission establishment appears to be unnecessarily large, and consequently too costly for its interests. 4th. That a stricter economy is much required throughout the establishment. 5th. That all the account-books should be opened at reasonable times for the inspection of any district or branch missionary officer. 6th. That the expenditure of the mission stations should be classified and expressed as to schools, missions, and travelling preachers. 7th. That appendices, giving the details of the annual appropriation of £1,500 for the training-fund of native agency, &c., the amount of funded property, the cash on loan, and cash lent on chapels, should be printed with every report. 8th. That it is extremely desirable that more frequent changes of the three junior secretaries should take place; and that one should retire this year, a second three years hence, and the third six years hence; and that none should be kept in office for a longer period than nine years; that more frequent changes in the sixteen London laymen is also very important, and that an election of the same, either by the London District Missionary

Meeting, or the London Quarterly Meeting, with a nomination or veto in the President, would be attended with great advantage."

The **PRESIDENT**, having waited a few minutes, said: As no one seconded the amendment it must fall to the ground. Hereupon—

Mr. T. A. TAGG said, he must remind the President that it was usual for a chairman to receive a resolution before its being seconded. As he had not done so with this amendment, it had not been seconded. There might be very many present who, with himself, were prepared to give Mr. Gabriel's proposal their support, but who could not rise to second it until the chairman had intimated that he had received it. He (**Mr. Tagg**) could not distinctly recollect all the points contained in it; but as far as he did recollect them, he was ready to second their adoption. He begged to take that opportunity of saying that both Mr. Gabriel and himself, on a former occasion, had been charged with impertinence in venturing to suggest alterations in the management to the secretaries. He would in reply state that, if either of them were to venture to contradict the reverend secretaries in matters of theology, such a charge might be fair and just; but he did imagine that, in such matters as those of accounts, and the construction of balance-sheets, men of business were quite as able to give an opinion. They had also been charged with questioning the integrity of the secretaries. He had no hesitation in saying that he never did sympathize with any such opinion. He had the highest confidence in the honesty of the executive; but he did think that when suggestions as to improvements were offered, they should be received in a courteous and Christian spirit. With the general tenor of Mr. Gabriel's remarks he most fully concurred, and had much pleasure in seconding the amendment. He regretted that suggestions were received in so hostile a spirit. There could be no question that the opportunity for such suggestions but very seldom occurred; and it would be but politic, as well as courteous, to pay every deference to those friends and supporters of the institution who might think proper to offer them, although in matters of management they might be strongly opposed in opinion to the present executive. It was at much sacrifice of feeling that he ventured to address them—to differ with so many beloved friends was not pleasant; it required some courage, or, as some had said, presumption, thus to offer his opinion; but he felt it to be his duty, and would not shrink from it.

Mr. FARMER,—who was received with loud cheers,—then rose to address the meeting. He said,—The President has just suggested that it might be desirable that the resolution should be put before I offered any observations in answer to what has fallen from Mr. Gabriel. I think, however, that it would appear better in the eyes of those friends who have thought proper to make some observations in reference to our statements, if I at once offer a few remarks. (*Hear.*) I am quite satisfied that this meeting will be prepared at once to receive and to adopt almost unanimously the resolution which has been submitted to it, but, at the same time, persons might say there is something forcible in what has been advanced; and knowing that much pains have been taken to throw a doubt on the minds of some—I cannot suppose on many—with reference to the correctness of the statements that have been presented, I will, for the satisfaction of such men, make one or two observations—(*hear, hear*)—and if they are but few, it is not because what has fallen from Mr. Gabriel does not admit of very many observations, or that we are not competent to give answers to the questions or suggestions that have fallen from him. (*Hear, hear.*) He says he has made applications, and has

not always received answers. But there are reasons why he may not have received the answers for which he applied. He made an application to me with reference to some matters with which I might be supposed to be acquainted. I took pains to make some enquiries, and asked him to meet me. I addressed him as one that wished information for the good of the Society—as a friend, and in no other way than might be beneficial to the Society—and I appeal to him, personally, whether he did not put some questions in reference to the interest of money, which showed when I gave him an answer, that he had not understood the question. Mr. Gabriel put a question with reference to the discrepancy between an account as it is exhibited and as he thought it ought to appear.

Mr. GABRIEL—I wish to make one remark. (Cries of “No, no.”)

Mr. FARMER—I have not the least objection to hear Mr. Gabriel.

Mr. GABRIEL—The point alluded to was not connected with these points.

Mr. FARMER—No.

Mr. GABRIEL—I wrote to Mr. Farmer stating that I was satisfied with them, and they have never been out of my lips, before or after.

Mr. FARMER—My reason for adverting to it is this, that after such an occurrence we might be rather chary of devoting time, which is so precious, to answer enquiries coming from every person disposed to make them. I am not inclined to make any charge against Mr. Gabriel, but I appeal to him as to a fact that might operate upon the mind of myself and others in reference to the answers that might be communicated to Mr. Gabriel, or any one who requested answers to questions. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gabriel, a few days ago, made a communication to me concerning certain matters, and asking certain questions, which I am prepared to answer. (Cheers.) As it was addressed to my private residence, I stated to Mr. Gabriel that I could not go fully into the subject immediately, but that I would be prepared to answer his questions here if it was thought desirable I should do so. (Applause.) Mr. Gabriel wishes to know the total of all the borrowed money on the various institutions. My answer is, that we had loans to the extent of £61,687 2s. 1d. The loans on February 28th, were reduced to £48,468 12s. 1d. Then there is the Centenary grant, Widows, &c., £10,000, and the Irish Schools, £6,000. He asks the rate of interest. The average is from 4 to 4½ per cent. I am ready to go into details if necessary. I am prepared to say that the rate of interest is justified. (Hear.) The next question is relative to the amount of discount paid to the bankers, or others, for bills discounted during the year 1849. The answer is, £15 17s. 6d.—(hear, hear)—a circumstance which will admit of some remark also, showing that if we could raise money, which we did, at a lower rate of interest, by any means in our power, than by going to the bankers for discount, it seems we acted wisely, prudently, and economically, when we adopted the course. I now come to a point which will probably surprise many here present. It is asked, What was the amount received for this year's account, up to the 28th of February? Will it be believed that for the conduct of the affairs of this Society, involving receipts for the whole year of £110,000, we had only received, up to the 28th of February, for the current year, £465 11s. 6d. (Loud cries of “Hear, hear.”) Now it may be asked, what becomes of the large amount we might be supposed to have in hand to commence operations in January, when at the end of February we had received only £465 11s. 6d.? And what was the amount paid for this year up to Feb. 28? No less than £15,433 11s. 2d. Surely

when we had this amount to pay, it was necessary for us to borrow from some quarter. (Hear, hear.) If we found it impossible to get money for the current year, from causes over which we have no control, we must borrow money or our credit will be at stake. But happily for us, our credit stands very high, and I cannot imagine any society with such a vast expenditure which stands higher in the commercial world. (Hear, hear.) Another question asked is, what amount was owing to the Society for loans on the 28th February? For Chapel debts there was owing £9,940 10s. 7d. If these accounts are not clear, it is not because there is any reluctance on the part of the Committee to make them known. If we had dealt as we, in our hearts, felt disposed to deal, with some of the cases of the Chapels which have been overtaken by calamities in the West Indies, we should have given them the money. But we are restricted in our grants, and these moneys have passed to their debit in the hope that, by the blessing of Providence, they may be able, under more prosperous circumstances, to repay the money, which they are quite willing, but now unable, to do. If we should cancel these debts at once, we should lose the possibility of getting anything; whereas, if they continue, we hope to be able to receive these sums at some future time. (Hear, hear.) Then there comes the personal account of £6,310 18s. 2d. This also may be explained from the circumstances of the missionaries throughout the world. (Hear.) The next question is, "Was the funded property free from all loans on the 28th February?" The answer is, "Yes." Here Mr. Gabriel is under some mistake. The funded property which appears to our credit is a sum of money funded exclusively for the annuitants. (Hear.) Whether I have been right or wrong, I take on myself a degree of responsibility in connection with that fund. When we have received money from persons who kindly give it, subject to such annuities, we have been able to say that the income derivable from the funded property is equal in amount, not merely in value, to the claims you have upon the Society. (Applause.) As you place implicit confidence in us, we will give you the grounds on which that confidence may safely rest. At the same time I am willing to admit that we have perhaps acted with over caution, and I am not disposed to recommend so strict an adherence to this principle as heretofore. We wish to act plainly and clearly in reference to existing circumstances, and have taken more than ordinary precaution to do so. (Hear.) I believe that Mr. Gabriel is in communication with those who may wish him to be the organ of enquiry, and who wish to take advantage of circumstances for the disparagement of the Society. (Loud cheers.) I will only add, with reference to what has been said with regard to the assistance afforded to the auditors, that the Treasurers were equally willing to afford every information in their power, and we have not withheld anything that was necessary to aid them in their labours. (Loud applause.)

Mr. GABRIEL begged to say most unequivocally and strongly that he was not the organ of anybody, and that he had acted entirely on his own responsibility.

Mr. FARMER was happy to hear that such was the case. (Cheers.)

Mr. MEASE, of North Shields, submitted to Mr. Gabriel the propriety of withdrawing his resolution, and placing it before the consideration of the Committee of the Society in London, assisted by as many country friends as he might suggest. The subject pointed out in the resolution, required the careful consideration of every one desirous of promoting the welfare of the Society. He trusted Mr. Gabriel would throw himself on

the kindly feelings of the meeting, and withdraw his resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SHARPLEY again rose to address the meeting. He said it was with great expense of personal feeling that he ventured to make any observation on that occasion. Differing as he did in many respects with the executive in minor matters, it was not a pleasant duty to take upon himself in any way to take part in those proceedings. He appeared before them as an independent man—he belonged to no party. (Disapproval.) He loved the missionary cause, and he had for many years given of his substance for its support. If he had not loved it, he should not now have left his home at great inconvenience to attend that meeting. But he believed there was nothing so noble in the wide world as the object contemplated by their society—the evangelization of the heathen. He took no credit to himself for what he had done, or for what he had given in its behalf. He had done it merely from a sense of duty. He regretted that remarks which he had made in the Committee of Review at the Hull Conference had been exaggerated. Reports had been spread that a fair hearing was denied him. He said he regretted these reports, as they were false. A fair hearing had been given to him, and he had nothing to complain of in that respect. But he did think, that when objections were offered, they should be met in a fair and candid manner, and that their executive should feel themselves superior to evasion. Let them meet their opponents as Mr. Wesley did when he was charged with being covetous, malicious, and proud. He (Mr. Wesley) said that he never coveted this world's goods—that he entertained malice towards no man; but as to pride, he had to take shame to himself for much of that sin, and to entreat his enemies to pray that he might be delivered from it. He was exceedingly glad to find that observations which he had made on a former occasion, in reference to the large expense for printing, had had their effect; that £7000 had been reduced to £5000. He considered it a desirable reduction. It might have been done earlier, and he had no hesitation in saying that it might yet be reduced to £4000. He differed from some of their respected ministers then present, who objected to putting the printing up to tender. He thought the printers knew their own business best, and that the committee might feel assured that no price would be given at which the printers could not make a profit. In the minutes, he observed, there appeared one entry to the effect that Mr. Nichols' offer had been received. He took it, therefore, that in that case the work had not been put to competition. He regretted this, for whatever the work might be—little or much—they should always put it to tender. He fully concurred with Mr. Gabriel in some of his observations, particularly in reference to the balance sheet. For instance, £9000 was entered in one item in four lines, and another of £11,000 in the same space.

Mr. THOMAS FARMER here rose, and requested Mr. Sharpley to be as brief as possible.

Mr. SHARPLEY considered Mr. Farmer was not courteous in calling him to order, and appealed to the chair whether he ought to be interrupted in that manner?

The PRESIDENT begged for silence.

The Rev. J. M'LEAN entreated the meeting to give his friend, Mr. Sharpley, a hearing. Due allowance ought to be made for their country friends.

Mr. SHARPLEY resumed his remarks. He thought, if there was any

property belonging to the Society, mention should be made of it in their reports. For instance, £1300 had been spent in the purchase of a house. Why was not the rent of that house deducted from the secretary's salary? He was pleased, however, to remark that, in the item of rent, in reference to the Centenary hall, that this year an entry did appear for the use of the use of the cellarage. He thought with Mr. Gabriel that it was not for the well-being of the society that the secretaries should remain in office so long. (Interruption.)

The PRESIDENT: This is not the time or place for discussing that.

Mr. SHARPLEY thought that these were times in which conciliatory measures should be adopted. He differed from those who treated with contempt the opinions of many thousands of their best friends. (Renewed interruption, amidst which Mr. Sharpley resumed his seat.)

The Rev E. HOOLE: I wish to say a few words, and perhaps I may be allowed to preface my remarks by an illustration of our present position. When the ingenious Mr. Watt was told from time to time of improvements in steam engines, and of new patents having been taken out for these improvements, he said, "There is not one that I have not thought of and tried myself." We may say that not one suggestion has been brought to our notice that is not already familiar to us, and which we have not considered. (Hear.) But I have a strong desire that they should be considered and reconsidered, and adopted if desirable. There is one point to which I wish to allude, lest there should be any misunderstanding on the part of any man, and that is, that in the Mission House, a sum of £10,000 was not recorded for two years. That is entirely a mistake. (Cheers.) A gentleman came to me and said "What may be the amount of your home expenditure." I said at a round guess, perhaps £10,000. "Very well," said he, "show me your ledger." I showed him a book in which bills of parcels are kept. Now, it so happened that I did not recollect that these bills are not posted according to their date, but according to their letter of the alphabet. He turned to the book and said, "Why, these bills are two years old." I said, so they are. And he said, "There are none after them?" I said No. There were none in that book, but I knew we had some bills of parcels in other parts of the buildings, and I said they had not been posted up in consequence of the pressure of other business, but it does not follow from that that the bills have not been duly entered in the accounts. (Hear, hear.) It is altogether a misapprehension. When a gentleman asks a question of this sort, and I give him a sort of haphazard answer, it is not fair to bring it before a meeting like the present. (Cheers.)

Mr. BENNETT, who was loudly cheered, said,—I rise merely to speak to one item which has been objected to by those who object to the proceedings of the committee of the society to-day, and their local expenses. I wish those gentlemen to take into consideration that of these expenses, enormous as they are, a great proportion are contracted in the country, and therefore they have no business to come to London to find fault with local expenses. (Hear, hear.) I think I have attended as many missionary meetings as any man, not only in my own district, but almost anywhere within the reach of my own locality, and I have always had to complain of local expenses. Sometimes our friends, notwithstanding the appointment of a proper deputation, must place on it a favoured individual of their own choosing, which causes an additional expense. I have seen this in more than one, two, or even ten instances. I am sure if our friends will attend to local expenses at home they will not have to complain of them

when they come here. (Hear, hear.) With reference to the items, I hope we have wisdom to suppose that the auditors who went through these accounts investigated all these expenses. I cannot conceive that such a respectable man as Mr. Corderoy would have gone into the expenses without examining the salaries of the secretaries and everything else. I dare say the secretaries have no objection to the publication of their salaries; but I am afraid if they were published we should be quite ashamed of them. Look at the men who are placed in these positions. But what would have been the incomes of such men if they had occupied positions in connection with the state? Men of the same abilities and talent would have gained high positions. (Hear.) Instead of finding fault with what is paid to them, they have never received salaries equal to their deserts. (Hear.) I believe the meeting have full confidence in the committee. (Hear.) I see at the head of it President Jackson. (Cheers.) We have heard of President Jackson before, and I hope we shall live to hear of him again. (Cheers.) President Jackson was with us in the centenary year, and I should like to see him in another centenary year. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) That, however, cannot be expected, but I believe that he lives in the regard and affection of every man—(cheers)—and I am quite sure if we would come to this anniversary with a desire to be baptised with the Holy Spirit, as our excellent President is, we should go on better. I believe that if we and all the Christian ministers and laymen were to pray for the outpouring of the Spirit, the little opposition which is now given to the spread of genuine Wesleyan Methodism must give way before that influence, as the dew before the sun. (Applause.) I am assured, however, whatever may be the result in connexion with that opposition, it is our duty to regard, above all things, that to which Mr. Heald refers—the connexional principle. There is one special principle to which I would just look. Some of our enemies would be glad to destroy that principle. Some of them, who form another section of the Christian church, whom we would not call enemies, but in some measure envious friends—(laughter)—would be desirous of destroying it. (Hear, hear.) My friends, it is this principle which has made us noticed by the world at large, and if we were to adopt certain improvements which have been suggested, and from high quarters, we should destroy that principle, and no longer be a connexional people. We should become independent churches. Let us adhere to that principle as we adhere to our God. (Cheers.) I am sure that the investigation of these accounts will lead to show the height of the glory, the stability of Wesleyan Methodism, and that God will defend it against all its enemies. (Loud applause.)

Mr. GARLAND, who spoke from the extreme end of the room, then addressed the meeting, but was indistinctly heard. He said he had not entered the meeting without some slight feelings of apprehension, because he was not certain he could measure the tone of the feeling of this assembly, by what he had observed in Cornwall. (Hear, hear.) He lived a little beyond the bounds of civilization, because civilization might be taken to be defined by the length to which railways had extended. (A laugh.) In that district many hearts beat warmly in favour of this cause. He was not going back to satisfy the large contributors, because they had not many, but to satisfy a great many humble individuals respecting the just appropriation of every farthing. (Hear, hear.) It made little difference to him whether a man contributed £100 or a shilling; for the value of the offerings was not determined by the amount, but by the motive which sanctified the giver; and he should feel

it as much his duty to satisfy the man who con-
man who gave a princely contribution. (Cl.
feeling some apprehension that this meeting
of what occurred at the great annual meeting.
spirit of the same kind might have manifested
should, very probably, have experienced such
and beloved friend did on that occasion. But
meeting was very different from that of the
continually placing itself in new positions. (C.
connected with the imperial legislature. He w
the meeting with the parliament of the kingd
there was another great institution with which
in a position. He admired in this city the
Metropolitan police. At that meeting it appe
himself conspicuous, not by the tie which con
rial legislature, but with the link which con
police. (Laughter.) He had listened with
ments which had been made; and there wa
wished specially to direct the attention of
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feetly conversant with the best mode of keepin
voucher was the tone in which Mr. Gabr.
(hear)—for notwithstanding he took some
tail, he expressed his unhesitating confidence
such circumstances, the meeting could not fi
dence in the report; the feeling which they
respective localities would tend greatly to
cause, and give accumulated efficacy to its
mark had been made to him lately, "Is th
slanders which are accumulating?" Now, h
regret in the matter; for, from what he had
possession, he had uniformly found that th
rageous when on the point of being expelled
he begged to add the strong and warm exp
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applause.)

Mr. CHADWICK, of York, said, notwithstanding
had been made, and the means which had
with regard to the accounts, they had all be
and he hoped that what had taken place wou
throughout the United Kingdom, but throug
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the meeting would express its unanimous co
piation of the money belonging to the insti

The PRESIDENT said, that a resolution
Heald, and seconded by Mr. Smith, to which
by Mr. Gabriel, and seconded by Mr. Tagg
recollect that they were not now assembled
Society, but for the purpose of reviewing the
during the last twelve months. The Socie
system of rules and recognised principles and

had been sent to circuits, others were pursuing their studies as Missionaries for India. On the subject of spiritual religion among the students, the report spoke in glowing terms. Pastoral duties had been performed with profit and pleasure. Some of them displayed a fervent zeal for the conversion of sinners; several took a lively interest in the religious instruction of young people, and had at one period as many as 300 of this class under their care. The result of these endeavours was of a highly encouraging nature. Among those students who were ready for appointments, there were some eminently qualified for the Wesleyan ministry, whether at home or abroad. The report concluded by stating, that as blossoms might be blighted, and promising young men might not fulfil the reasonable expectations that had been formed respecting them, it was therefore needful to recommend them to God and the Word of his grace. (Hear, hear.)

The Report of the Examiners of the Northern Branch, Didsbury, was also read by Mr. CROWTHEN. It began by stating, that the students were requested before the 20th and 21st of June (the days of the examination), to prepare severally a sketch of a sermon, taking for their text Hebrews ii. 10. The subject, for beginners in theology, was, confessedly, difficult; yet they were not altogether unprepared to enter upon it. (Hear, hear.) Several of the students evinced a ready and correct perception of the important truths contained in the passage, and a wide scope of Bible reading; while, with reference to collateral topics, there were only one or two misapprehensions of the meaning of the text. Some of the sketches were indicative of the future eminence, as well as usefulness of the writers; and all appeared to be the compositions of devout and prayerful minds, full of compassion for the souls of men, without any speculative reasonings, thus exhibiting important characteristics of preachers called of God. The first class of ten students was examined on the general doctrines of Christianity, on biblical interpretation, comprising the use of the English Scriptures, and rules of biblical interpretation. They were also questioned on various subjects concerning ecclesiastical history. The second class of sixteen students of the second year, and eight of the first year were examined on Christian duties, on the duties of the Christian to himself and his God, and on several other subjects relating to the sacraments and the institution of the Sabbath. Making only fair and moderate allowances for some, who were disconcerted by these examinations, they all appeared to have derived considerable aid from the instruction that had been imparted to them, and their answers on most topics were highly satisfactory, and manifested the habitual exercise of well-informed minds. Their examination on general literature was also very gratifying. On no former occasion did they evince so much industry, and give so much satisfaction. There was a manifest desire among them to make the best use of their time while under the care of their classical and mathematical tutors. On all the questions that were put to them their answers were given with great readiness, and a few whose names might be mentioned did themselves great credit. (Hear, hear.) A determination was exemplified among them to overcome every difficulty in order to master their theological and classical studies. In the biblical classes considerable acquaintance was displayed with the most important branches of biblical study; and the students were strongly recommended to avail themselves of the valuable instructions of Mr. Hellier. Satisfactory answers were also given on the first and second books of Euclid, which brought the ardu-

ous examinations to a conclusion,—the friends of the students being present, and expressing their satisfaction during the two days. One of the examiners, the Rev. J. Manners, said in concluding his able report, that the students on former occasions did themselves great credit, but this year they had surpassed themselves,—(hear, hear,)—and reflected the highest praise on those whose duty it was to stimulate them when overtaken by fits of laziness. (Loud laughter.)

The Report of the House Governor, the Rev. J. Bowers, stated that while there was nothing unusual to report this year, yet substantial progress was the result. The number of students on the establishment was thirty-four, of whom ten came for three years, sixteen for two years, and eight for one year. There were fewer cases of failing health than in any former year, and the religious state and general conduct of the students were blameless,—their habits diligent,—their personal religion healthful and growing,—their preaching useful,—their visits to the poor of the surrounding districts had been maintained with regularity and attended with success,—and their attachment to Methodism in time of apprehension and trial had been unswerving. (Loud applause.) Constant sollicitude was directed to the welfare of the students, during their last year's residence; and in this respect their conduct has been decidedly favourable,—a life of godliness has been fostered among them; their Christian principles were more solid and steady; and their sincere desire was to exemplify in their future labours, an entire consecration to the work of God. (Hear, hear.) In confirmation of this statement, reference might be made to those brethren now in active service both at home and abroad,—(hear, hear)—and in contradiction to doubting friends and calumnious representations which had been permitted to be propagated by a spirit of hostility. The governor concluded his able report with a prayerful desire that the institution would long continue to send forth bright successors to those founders of Wesleyan Methodism, whose purity of life and doctrine, singleness of purpose, untiring zeal, maintenance of the truth and honourable confidence, were worthy of the emulation of those who aspire to be followers of those men of God. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. JOHN FARRAR, one of the general treasurers, read the Financial Report, from which it appeared that there had been received, from the various districts of Great Britain and Ireland, including the contributions of home ministers and foreign missionaries, the sum of £1,983 Os. 8d. The donations of the students and their friends were £196 ls.; Richmond circuit contributed £52 10s. 6d.; Didsbury, from pew-rents, £16; the students' class-money at Richmond and Didsbury was £28 Os. 5d. From the Mission House there had been received, for the training and support of students designed for the mission work, £758 16s. The total amount of interest was £1,002 18s. 9d. From the Book-room there was a grant in part of £600; and a legacy of £500 had been left to the institution by the late James Wood, Esq., of Manchester, one of the first and principal promoters of the Theological Institution, and whose lamented decease and Christian excellencies were duly commemorated by the last Conference. The total amount of receipts was £7,347 Os. 4d., *minus* a balance due to the treasurers of £2,209 13s. Mr. Farrar observed that this sum, he hoped, would be very materially decreased during the sittings of Conference, as several hundred pounds were expected to be received from the Book-room, and several small sums were due from various circuits, and other contributions.

He then proceeded to read the disbursements, which (including a

balance due to the treasurers last year of £1,690 2s. 6d.,) were as follows:—Expenses at Richmond, £2,712 7s. 7½d., and at Didsbury, £2,448 15s. 11d.; repairs of building, £399 11s. 6d.; miscellaneous expenses, £156 2s. 10d.; making a total of £5,712 17s. 10d. Mr. Farrar accounted for the decrease of the expenditure this year, from the fact that one branch of the institution had been closed for a month, to make some alterations and repairs—and thus one month's expenses had been saved.

The Rev. Dr. BEECHAM said, he had been taken by surprise in having a resolution placed in his hands which he had had scarcely time to look at before he was called on to move its adoption. On reading it, however, he found there were no arguments necessary to recommend it. It was—“That this Committee expresses its gratitude to the Giver of all good gifts, for the reports of the efficient and prosperous working of both branches of the Institution.” The meeting had listened to the reports, and the attention paid, and the marks of approbation which followed as they were read, were sufficient indications of the great satisfaction with which they were received. (Hear, hear.) There was great cause of thankfulness to God, that the two branches of the Institution were in such a prosperous state. He had had an opportunity of assisting to conduct the examinations of the students at Richmond; and he might say, that he had never been more satisfied with the state of that branch. (Hear, hear.) He had had the privilege,—for he considered it a privilege,—of having assisted in the examinations at Richmond for several years; but he never recollected when he had received such entire satisfaction as at the last examination. (Hear, hear.) He adverted to the personal piety of the students, and he was persuaded that at Richmond Institution, (and he was quite convinced, from the reports received of the Northern Branch, the same might be said of that Institution,) piety was advancing. During the examination, and at its close, special reference was made to the personal piety of the students. They were asked, whether in their own judgement, and before God, their personal piety had improved during their residence there; and the answers given to those inquiries were exceedingly satisfactory; (hear, hear;) and he was persuaded that the great increase of personal piety in that institution had served, very materially, in forming their Christian character. With regard to their attainments generally, and their fitness for the ministry over numbers of their fathers in the ministry, who commenced their labours before the Institution had been formed, and had to contend with difficulties of which they knew nothing, (hear, hear,) their advantages had been great. He thought it was of the highest importance, considering the peculiar characteristics of the times, that the rising ministry should possess all the fitness necessary for the successful discharge of their duties. (Hear, hear.) He did most heartily participate in the feelings which had dictated the resolution,—feelings of gratitude to God for the prosperous state of the two branches. (Hear, hear.) If the conductors of the two branches had not been present, he should have said something in reference to them. He could, nevertheless, say, that he thanked God for the conductors of the institution, as well as for the institution itself. He thanked God for his goodness, which had been peculiarly displayed to the Connexion in raising men so eminent, especially the distinguished individuals to whom was confided the conducting of this Institution. His (Dr. Beecham's) prayer to Almighty God was, that their lives might be spared to the Connexion, and that their labours might be long and efficiently directed to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FARMER, in seconding the resolution, said, that it would not be necessary to enter into any details after what had been stated in the reports. He could not help expressing his satisfaction at the highly interesting facts recorded in those reports; and his expression of gratitude to God for raising up young men,—men of personal piety,—growing in knowledge and grace at the same time. From the commencement, he had been a supporter of the Institution, and had felt some degree of anxiety in its establishment. Hitherto, however, it had worked highly satisfactorily to his own mind. At the commencement, he had anticipated this institution would work well; and, when they had had more experience of them, the two branches would be more liberally supported. (Hear, hear.) He felt a deep interest in their continued support. He hoped they would feel obligated to render these institutions all the assistance they could, first, by their individual contributions; and, secondly, by bringing the claims of the institutions before their friends. He then alluded to the New Chapel, at the Richmond branch, and to the successful exertions that had been made to have it completed by Friday, the 2nd of August. It had cost £2,000. He hoped they would attend its opening by Dr. Hannah. He most heartily concurred in the resolution, which was subsequently carried unanimously.

Dr. BUNTING said, after many years of hesitation, the chapel connected with the Institution, at Richmond, had been principally built through the liberality of Mr. Farmer. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Farmer and his immediate friends were responsible for £500 of that undertaking.

Mr. WALL moved, that this Committee acknowledges the valuable services rendered by the President of the Institution during the past year, and trusts that he will continue in that office for the year to come. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that the hearts of all present responded to his resolution. (Hear, hear.) For fifty-one years the venerable President had adorned their Connexion, and they prayed, with increased solicitude, that his voice and countenance might long remain among them, to aid them with his counsel. (Hear, hear.) He most cordially moved the resolution.

Dr. NEWTON—I most heartily second the resolution which my friend has proposed. We thank the Head of the Church for giving us such a man; and we do pray that his valuable life may be spared to us for many many years, and that those counsels—so true, so useful—with which he has, from time to time, favoured the Committee of the two branches of the institution, may still be continued. While first of all we thank the Great Head of the Church, we next thank the individual who has been so useful to us. (Hear, hear.) Only a short time since he undertook a journey all the way to Didsbury, to meet the Committee there, to superintend its proceedings, to promote the interest of the Institution, and to guard the interests of the Connexion at large. (Applause.) I heartily second this resolution.

The Rev. P. McOWAN said—He considered it a high honour to be permitted to say a few words in support of the motion. He regarded the venerable person, the subject of the resolution, as a pattern of common tenderness and fidelity. (Hear, hear.) Where principle was concerned, he (Dr. Bunting) knew no man after the flesh. He had often glorified God, in giving them, through him, light when they stood in want of light,—counsel when they needed counsel; and his earnest prayer to the Head of the Church was, that he might long be the oracle for counsel, and a pillar to strengthen their attachment to this Institution, and to Me-

thodism as a whole; and that those counsels in favour of the Institution may be continued for years to come.

Mr. MARSDEN also, in appropriate terms, spoke in favour of the resolution.

The PRESIDENT—I am sure that the putting of this resolution is a mere matter of form. (Hear, hear.) We feel thankful to God for your valuable services.

Dr. BUNTING said that, agreeably to his own feelings, he would say nothing. He felt grateful for their kindness and the resolution. It was not in his power to give adequate expression to what he felt. Of all those labours, in the course of a protracted—a strangely protracted—life, that it had been his privilege to take a humble part with others, he did not think that there was any that gave him greater satisfaction, than the humble part he had had the privilege to take in the formation of this Institution. (Applause.) He believed, in that work they had done a great work,—a great work for Methodism. (Loud applause.) It was his opinion, after considerable observation, that there was, in the Institution, a gradual improvement in attainments and qualifications for usefulness; but its efficiency was chiefly seen in the distinguished discipline and doctrine which the Institution rendered. (Hear, hear.) He did believe, in reference to the young men, that it would not be very easy to seduce them into any treason against Methodism. (Loud applause.) He was very unwilling, in the first instance, to accept the office of President of the Institution, as being far too honourable for him. ("No, no.") He was pressed into it by some of the fathers of the Connexion, who were determined to take no denial. He felt somewhat embarrassed, in his present position, when called on to address the young men in the presence of such men as the President of the Conference and Dr. Hannah; because he felt that the instructions which had been given to them were far superior to anything he could venture to offer. He earnestly wished that the office should be abolished, and that the presidency of the two branches should be held by one of the Theological Tutors. The Connexion was peculiarly favoured; God had remarkably blessed them with Tutors and Governors, men well qualified for their important duties, and unceasing in the discharge of the labours which they were called on to perform. He was sure they would, with gratitude, join him in acknowledging the valuable services of the Governors,—the Rev. S. Jackson and the Rev. J. Bowers; the Rev. Thomas Jackson and the Rev. John Hannah, the Theological Tutors; and of the Rev. John Farrar and the Rev. J. Crowther, the Classical Tutors, for the diligence and ability with which they had discharged the duties of their respective offices during the year, and he moved a resolution to this effect.

Mr. WALKER, of Cheltenham, most cordially seconded the resolution. It was to him a high satisfaction, that he could speak of the beneficial effects resulting from this Institution. When he remembered what a blessing it had conferred on a nephew of his, (of whom he gave an interesting account,) who was first of all intended for a minister of the Church of England, but who had subsequently become a Wesleyan, he could not do less than express his thanks to the officers for the discipline and instruction they had imparted to one so near to him. (Hear, hear.) The resolution was carried amidst general acclamation.

The Rev. JOHN MATTHEWS moved the usual vote of thanks to the General and Local Treasurers and Secretaries of the Institution. He had heard with great satisfaction the reports of this important and useful In-

stitution ; it had exceeded the expectations and desires of its best friends, and he trusted that it would be blessed with increased prosperity and usefulness during the coming year.

The Rev. J. MASON said, that at that late hour of the evening he would merely second the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31st, 1850.

The One Hundred and Seventh Annual Assembly of the Wesleyan Ministers was formally opened, in City Road Chapel, London, on Wednesday morning. The number of ministers present was about 600. The Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, the retiring President, gave out the 712th Hymn. After which, the Secretary, the Rev. Dr. HANNAH, read the 17th chapter of St. John. This was followed by prayer, in which the Rev. GEORGE MARSDEN and the Rev. Dr. NEWTON fervently engaged.

THE LEGAL HUNDRED.

The first business is always to ascertain what vacancies the yearly interval has caused in the legal senate of Methodism,—the "One Hundred" Ministers perpetuated by the "Dead Poll" of Mr. Wesley. It was ascertained that there were seven such vacancies. These were supplied as follows:—

By seniority,	James Golding, in the place of Edward Batty, deceased.	
By nomination,	Charles Prest,	John Davis, superann.
By seniority,	Benjamin Hudson,	William France, super.
....	Hugh Beech,	Richard Reece, deceased.
....	William Jackson, 1st	George H. Rowe, deceased
By nomination,	Samuel D. Waddy,	Wm. Tranter, super.
By seniority,	John Hobson,	Maximilian Wilson, super.

After the election of J. Golding by seniority, Dr. BUNTING rose and said, he had great pleasure in nominating a brother who had served the Connexion in many different ways, particularly as secretary to important connexional committees ; and who, during the past year, had displayed admirable tact in keeping a large circuit in peace, while many had allowed or winked at agitation. He referred to the Rev. C. Prest.

Mr. FOWLER then rose, and proposed Mr. S. D. Waddy. Votes were taken by ballot, the result of which was—Prest, 187 ; Waddy, 169.

The Rev. C. PREST said, he could assure the Conference that, under any circumstances, a vote of the kind which they had just passed, must have given him high satisfaction ; but, under the present circumstances of the Connexion, it gave him peculiar gratification. He rose to address the Conference under the influence of very mixed feelings. He hoped that

he was not insensible of the weight and responsibility connected with an appointment like that just conferred upon him. He had paid the best attention that he could for twenty-one years, which he had spent as one of their ministers, to the system and working of Methodism. If he were not fully convinced, first, of the purity of their doctrine, and of the scriptural character of their discipline, he would not undertake such a trust. If he had anything like a misgiving, that Conference would not maintain inviolate their great principles, he should beg them at once to relieve him from that trust; but he had no such feelings in his mind, and he, therefore, accepted it with thankfulness. He trusted that Conference would have no cause to regret that they had reposed in him that trust, for which he begged, through the President, to return to his brethren his hearty thanks.

Hugh Beech, Benjamin Hudson, and William Jackson were then elected by seniority. Samuel D. Waddy was again nominated. Dr. Newton passed an eulogium upon John Rattenbury, stating he had thought of proposing him, but would withdraw in favour of Mr. Waddy. Votes were then taken; when there appeared, for Mr. Steward, 1; Mr. Methley, 1; Mr. James Wood, 1; Mr. Rattenbury, 41; Mr. Waddy, 294.

The Rev. S. D. WADDY said he felt obliged to his fathers and brethren for the confidence which they reposed in him. His attention had been directed to the deed under which he, as he understood, became a trustee. During the past year, he had paid more attention to it than before. Any man who was elected to such a trust had a right to state his reasons, if he had any, why he should decline it. But he could not understand how any man who had accepted the responsibility of such a trust, had any right to violate it. Having duly considered the subject, he had made up his mind to undertake the trust to which he had been called somewhat earlier than he had any right to expect. And having thus undertaken it, he would never be a party to its infringement; nor, in any circuit in which he should reside, would he be a party to anything which might persuade the people that he intended to sanction its infringement. He felt thankful for the confidence reposed in him, and trusted that God would give him grace to be faithful.

JOHN HOBSON was then elected by seniority.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

The election of the "Hundred" being thus completed, the next business was the election of a President and Secretary of the Conference.

The retiring PRESIDENT (the Rev. T. Jackson) observed that the next act the Conference would have to perform was a very solemn and important one—it was the election of a President. If they proceeded without loss of time to this business, they would be able to accomplish it before the Prayer Meeting commenced; and he trusted they would come to a right conclusion.

Dr. HANNAH remarked that before Conference proceeded any further, he begged to be allowed to interpose a word, which he trusted the Conference would receive kindly. It was very desirable that the successor of Mr. Jackson should be chosen by as large a majority of votes as possible. He (Dr. H.) had received an intimation from some friends that they thought of voting for him. He must, however, request them, on the ground of personal friendship, not to do so, but to vote for the man who, he trusted, being called to the chair, would be sustained in that important office by feeling that he was placed there by the suffrages of a large majority of the Conference.

The Rev. WM. NAYLOR said that some of the brethren had intimated their intention of voting for him, but he could not entertain the expectation of so large a number of votes as would place him in the chair; and he hoped the brethren who had expressed such an intention would vote in another way.

The election of the President was then proceeded with, all ministers of fourteen years' standing being eligible to vote. The principal numbers were as follows:—

The Rev. Dr. BEECHAM....	216	The Rev. WM. NAYLOR	4
.... JOSEPH FOWLER..	143 Dr. BEAUMONT....	2
.... Dr. HANNAH	14 GEORGE OSBORN...	1
.... JOHN LOMAS....	11		

The election was confirmed by the unanimous vote of the Legal Hundred.

It being past twelve o'clock, it was agreed to defer the election of Secretary until after the Prayer Meeting. The doors were accordingly opened, when a large number of the lay members of the Connexion entered the edifice, and joined in the devotional exercises.

Before commencing, the EX-PRESIDENT remarked that he had unmixed pleasure in announcing to the friends assembled that the Rev. Dr. Beecham, one of the General Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, had been elected by the Conference as its President for the ensuing year. It was not the custom of the Conference for the retiring President to vacate the chair until the Secretary had been chosen. That was the reason why he still occupied that position.

Portions were then sung of the hymns beginning,

Hymn 446—"Jesus the word of mercy give."

.. 463—"Lamb of God, who bear'st away."

.. 494—"Lo! God is here! let us adore."

The Rev. Messrs. JOHN SMITH, ROBERT YOUNG, PETER M'OWAN, JOHN M'OWAN, and GEORGE TAYLOR, engaged in prayer; and the loud responses of the assembled multitude testified how earnestly they joined in supplication and intercession.

The Conference, on resuming business, proceeded to the election of a Secretary. The principal numbers stood as follows:—The Rev. Dr. Hannah, 195; the Rev. Joseph Fowler, 67; the Rev. Dr. Newton, 80; the Rev. J. Farrar, 8.

The election to this office is also by the vote of Ministers of fourteen years' standing and upwards, and was unanimously confirmed by the votes of the Legal Hundred.

The EX-PRESIDENT then addressing Dr. Beecham, said—It gave him infinite satisfaction to place in his hands the seal of the Conference. He could truly say, that there was not a member of that body to whose hands he should deliver it with greater satisfaction. He had known him intimately for more than twenty years,—he had marked his going out, and coming in, and the duties which he had performed,—and was prepared to say, that a more zealous, diligent, and faithful servant the Methodist Conference never had. He (the Ex-President) could not be without some anxiety as to the maintenance of their constitution in its integrity—its entire integrity. He believed that the President would so maintain it; in doing that, God would sustain him; and he would be sustained, also, by the sympathies and prayers of those venerable men

whom he saw around him, and the blessings of the thousands of their Israel. With great emphasis the Ex-President added—"God bless you."—Connected with the Conference seal, he had also to deliver to him the Bible, out of which their Venerable Founder was accustomed to take his text, when he preached in the open air, in different parts of the kingdom. He trusted that open-air preaching would never be neglected. It had been a great means of doing good. In conclusion, he rejoiced to be the first member of the Conference to render honour to the President in his new situation.

THE PRESIDENT—I sincerely thank you, dear brethren, for the confidence you have expressed in me, by placing me in this responsible situation. At the same time, allow me earnestly to solicit your support in the performance of the arduous duties your kindness has imposed upon me. In addition to the ordinary Connexional business, which requires the attention of the Conference at its annual meetings, questions arising out of the agitation of the past year, may claim consideration on the present occasion. I shall not now undertake to prescribe the manner in which such questions shall be taken up, and disposed of; but I am persuaded that we come together with our minds fully made up as to the great principles which must guide us in all our deliberations, and conduct us to all our conclusions. We are a body of Christian ministers, and, as such, we sustain an office which was not devised by human wisdom, nor established by human authority; but which was conceived in the Divine mind, and introduced and established in the church by God himself. Now, I conclude we are all agreed that our deliberations must proceed upon the principle that that office must be maintained in all its integrity, and that we are bound by our allegiance to the Great Head of the Church not to obliterate, or even in the slightest degree obscure, any of the features by which the ministerial and pastoral office has been distinguished by its Divine Author. But we are also a body of Wesleyan ministers, and, in that capacity, we are the guardians of a system of evangelical doctrine and godly discipline—eminently providential in its origin—that has been committed to us by our predecessors as a sacred trust, which we are solemnly pledged to maintain in all its integrity. As individuals we are bound to this by our ordination-vows. When we were admitted into full Connexion, and formally set apart to the office and work of the ministry, we entered into the most explicit engagement, not only to abide by the doctrinal standards of the body, but also to observe and enforce that discipline which has come down to us from our great Founder. In our collective character, as a Conference, further obligations rest upon us to uphold and preserve the entire system of Methodism in all its essential characteristics. If, then, it be proposed to change Methodism, in its great and vital principles—to make it something essentially different from the Methodism which has been committed to us as a sacred deposit,—our answer is—We cannot betray our trust, we cannot violate our solemn vows, and our examination of any proposals must proceed upon the fixed and settled principle, that any proposition for subverting that which we are under the weightiest obligations to preserve and defend, cannot for a moment be entertained. That duty must be performed, whatever be the consequence—is another principle which, I am persuaded, we shall agree to adopt in practice, as well as hold in theory. We may not "do evil that good may come," and concede to clamour or importunity that which is contrary to our conscientious convictions. It is most desirable that peace should prevail

in a Christian community; but true, solid, Christian peace can never be obtained by the sacrifice of Christian principle. Nothing could possibly be procured by such a sacrifice but a temporary and delusive calm; while, by our throwing down the barrier of Christian principle, we should render our invaluable system less capable of defence in the next agitation, which would inevitably and speedily arise. Dear brethren, I confidently assume that we are agreed upon this point—that such fixed and settled principles as these must govern us in all our inquiries and deliberations, and with this firm persuasion, I contemplate the result with encouragement and hope. If we take our stand on Scriptural principles, God will stand by us. We are to remember, too, for our comfort, that the cause which we are solicitous to maintain, is not our own: it is the cause of our Divine Master. However dear it may be to us, it is infinitely dearer to the heart of God, and he will defend it and protect its interests against all opposition. He may allow the faith of his servants sometimes to be severely tested, but let them remain faithful to their trust, and He will not fail to appear in their behalf, and give them to rejoice in the triumphs of His blessed cause, for which they gladly toil and suffer. We may derive additional consolation in our present circumstances, from the consideration, that nothing new or uncommon has happened to us. If, as a religious body, we had always enjoyed profound tranquility, we might be under some apprehension respecting the result of the present disturbances. But this has not been the case. Methodism was cradled in storms; and, in successive periods of its history, the Connexion has experienced the effects of agitation. Nor is this a matter of surprise. A slumbering church may long remain in a state of quietude. Not so a living and energetic church, which is answering the great end of its institution. Methodism is a system of life and energy; and so long as it maintains its scriptural character, it must be expected that Satan will endeavour, at every opportunity favourable to his purpose, to arrest its onward course and aggressive movements, by sowing dissension among the Wesleyan ministers and people,—thus calling off their attention from their one great work, to unprofitable and hurtful disputes. Hitherto, Methodism has always come triumphant out of every trial; and the troubles which it has undergone have been overruled for greater good, and have also served to prepare it for more extensive usefulness. Already, we have the cheering indications that such will be the result of our present trial. The gracious revival of religion which has taken place in many parts of the Connexion during the past year; the zeal and liberality of a great number of our people, in support of Methodism as it is; the increased spirit of brotherly love and union which has obtained among us, as a body of ministers; and the gracious indications which have been vouchsafed to us in the Committees which have been held preparatory to this Conference, serve to show that God is blessedly in our midst, and afford ground for hope, that he is conducting us through our present difficulties to a yet higher position, in which Methodism may become a still greater blessing to the country and to the world at large. Taking a full view of our present circumstances, I feel fully persuaded that it is our privilege “to thank God and take courage.” The President concluded his remarks with some observations on the importance of regularity and order in the management of the business of the Conference.

THANKS TO THE EX-PRESIDENT.

Dr. BUNTING said he had the honour and pleasure of proposing a re-

solution, which he was persuaded would be received with the utmost cordiality. It was a resolution of thanks to one who had lately filled the chair which the venerable John Wesley occupied,—than whom, he might safely say, none had ever filled it more ably, more worthily, or more beneficially to the connexion. The Rev. Doctor then read the resolution, embodying the thanks of the Conference to the ex-president for the eminently able and faithful manner in which he, in circumstances of great difficulty, had performed the duties of his office. He (Dr. B.) thought the words employed in the resolution, describing the general, and, what he might call the particular administration of Mr. Jackson, were well chosen;—that administration had been distinguished by great ability, sound judgement, and unflinching integrity; and the members of the Conference had an example in Mr. Jackson of everything which they ought to try to imitate. There was one circumstance, which, from the beginning of the year to the end of it, had impressed itself on his own grateful heart: it was the abundant proof that had been given that the election of their late president had been a perfect “God-send.” The great unanimity of last Conference, and the blessing which had rested on its election, were proofs of the divine care on their behalf. He must also refer to those proofs of wisdom and ability which the president had displayed when, in the course of his duty, he had been called to visit various circuits. On one or two occasions it had been his (Dr. B.’s) privilege to witness his deportment in trying circumstances, and he could not sufficiently express his admiration of it. He hoped that there would be on that occasion no expression of a contrary feeling, and with the greatest satisfaction he moved the resolution.

Dr. NEWTON seconded the resolution. He had had the honour of giving to his friend Mr. Jackson the seals of office, twelve months ago; and he never did any work in which he had been called to engage with a more entire conviction that what he was doing would be for God’s honour and glory. His conviction was, that under all circumstances his friend Mr. Jackson was the man for the office; and the events which had since occurred, and some of which had been awful in some parts of the connexion, persuaded him that his conviction was well founded. Mr. Jackson had manifested the meekness of wisdom and Christian charity, with which the Head of the church had endowed him, and had thereby done the connexion lasting good. He (Mr. Jackson) had spoken with the enemy in the gate, in words of truth and wisdom, and in a way to benefit all who had heard him. Mr. Jackson had passed through a year of great difficulty and labour; but the Lord had supported him, and had brought him through with high credit and honour to himself, to the entire satisfaction of his brethren, and in a manner which had been, and would still be, made a blessing to the connexion. He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, which he trusted would not only be carried, but unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT then read the resolution, and submitted it to the Conference, as he said, with much pleasure, as his first public act in that office, and felt sure that it would be unanimously approved.

The resolution was unanimously adopted amidst loud applause.

The PRESIDENT (addressing the ex-President) said he had great pleasure in conveying to him the unanimous and cordial thanks of the Conference for the services which he had rendered to the connexion during the year. In some respects he had been peculiarly situated, having been called upon to sustain that important office during two remarkable

periods. The first was in the centenary year; and he only expressed what he believed to be the opinion of his fathers and brethren generally, when he said that he (the ex-president) had been eminently baptised by the great Head of the church, for the services he had then been called to perform. He (the ex-president) had also filled the same office during another somewhat remarkable period; though he regretted to say of a very different character from the one when he first sustained that office; but it was, he believed, the opinion of his brethren that he had appeared to be as eminently fitted of God for the arduous duties of the office as on the former occasion. He (the president) had great pleasure in being the medium of communicating to him those thanks of the Conference, which had been so cordially expressed. They had his hearty concurrence, and he only expressed the universal feeling when he said that he hoped his life would be long spared to the connexion, and that he would be fitted for yet greater usefulness in the service of Christ's church.

The EX-PRESIDENT in reply said—He had received the expressions of the kind feeling of the Conference with emotions to which he could not give utterance. The Being who made him knew that he spoke the truth when he said that he never desired office. It had been his highest ambition to be, living and dying, an humble Methodist preacher in the circuit work. Providence had overruled him in this; and he had been called, against his desire, to fill numerous important offices in the body. He could only say that his greatest trials had arisen from such appointments. He had never desired to be elected at the last Conference to the presidential office; but when put into it he felt it to be binding on him to fulfil the duties thus imposed upon him. He trusted that he had done so with fidelity. But during the Conference and afterwards the affairs of their beloved Methodism had assumed a serious and threatening aspect;—a system of agitation had been commenced; and, under those circumstances, he came to the determination to visit every place in the connexion that he could, when desired to do so. Severe reflections had been cast upon him by an unscrupulous press; but he felt that he had an honest heart, and he believed that he had an honest face, and he was determined to go and show it, and let the societies see, and their congregations see, and the nation see, if it thought proper, that he was not ashamed to appear as the President of the Wesleyan Conference at a time when that unscrupulous press so cast aspersions upon him. He was thankful to say that he had been received generally with unexampled respect. There had been, indeed, a few exceptions, and but a few; but he believed that, upon the whole, he was never so popular before in his life. Crowds had flocked to see him, in some instances, probably with a view to ascertain whether he really was of woman born, or some fiend of darkness from the lower regions. He had felt, occasionally, a little tried when crowds had looked at him, as though they could stare him through and through. Nevertheless he had met, in various places, with Methodist preachers, who, though they were placed in circumstances of trial, had exhibited great firmness, combined with great forbearance, and whom he highly esteemed for the manner in which they had shown their willingness to risk popularity and every thing of that kind for Methodism. He had also seen great numbers of the Methodist people, who were endued with the same spirit, and he admired that noble spirit. He could not conceal the fact that in some places—as, for instance, in Bristol, where he met with treatment which was not honourable to the parties concerned—some godly Methodist women, like the old Me-

theists; had met him with tears in their eyes, and assured him of their sympathy and their prayers, and that God would help him. With such sympathy and such prayers, he felt that he could not sink. During the whole year his heart had never, never sunk. At the close of the last Conference, when a system of agitation commenced, he did believe that the Connexion would have a year of great blessing; and it had cheered his mind during the year, and wonderfully sustained him in the midst of his overwhelming labours, to hear of prosperity in many places. His life, as they would readily believe, had not been an idle life. He had always belonged to the working classes, but certainly never more so than during the past year. If his heart had, for a moment, been disposed to fail, it would have been when the postman came to his door with a handful of letters, which he had not more than an hour or so of time to answer. But in all circumstances, God had sustained him by his grace, and he had walked in the unclouded light of the Divine countenance. He felt that, supported by the presence and grace of his Divine Lord, he could not sink. He wished to offer, in the first place, his thanks to God for the help he had afforded him, and, in the next place, to his honoured brethren—particularly those residing in and around London—who had given him their valuable counsel and assistance; and to many of his brethren throughout the extent of the Connexion for their letters of sympathy, and especially for the cordial and prompt response they had given to the declaration which he had thought it his duty to issue. He had felt, with many of his brethren, that something of the kind was greatly needed, in order that their people might know what they had to expect; and he had reason to be assured that the end had been answered; the great body of the brethren had affixed their signatures to it with a promptitude which was unexampled. He would not weary them, but he could not help expressing his thankfulness to God that he had brought him through the scenes of that eventful and trying year with a pure conscience. He had trembled to think of what he had passed through. If, under any circumstances of temptation, he had given encouragement to their adversaries—if, by holding out any intimation that they might be wrong, and that the system could not be sustained, he had increased the strength of their enemies, what would have become of him? He durst not have met the Conference—he could not have met his final Judge—and where, then, could he have found a place in the whole universe in which to hide his guilty head? How could he meet the spirit and frown of John Wesley in another world? (Great emotion.) He wished to allude particularly to the assault which had been made on the ministerial office. If he read the New Testament aright, the evangelical ministry was not a human office. It was a Divine appointment, first, a preaching, and, secondly, a pastoral ministry. No minister of the Lord Jesus could divest himself of the pastoral charge, without renouncing his allegiance to Christ. He felt thankful to God that he had been able to maintain inviolate the great principles of Methodism. He considered that Methodism was not for one age or one nation, but was destined to bless the world while the sun and moon endured; but in order to that, the pastoral office must be preserved in all its integrity and in all its essential principles. The ministry, especially, must be preserved in its purity; no sin must be concealed among them. God's command was—"If thou shalt bear say, in one of thy cities,—Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city.... Then shalt thou inquire and make search, and ask diligently, and be-

hold, if it be truth, and the thing certain that such abomination is wrought among you, thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword; . . . And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and show thee mercy." When rumours were abroad, inquiries must be instituted and evil put away. (Hear, hear.) If they meant to fulfil the purposes of their office, and preserve the ministry committed to them by their venerated founder, in its integrity, they were not at liberty to go to a leaders' meeting, and ask whether they should maintain discipline against those who offended, and thus violate the laws of God. He was not at liberty to go to a leaders' meeting and say, "Sin has been committed by such a person; shall I be allowed to put away the person who has sinned?" (Hear, hear.) On those points they were agreed.—(Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he expressed his belief that they should have a good Conference. The special influence of the Spirit of God had already descended upon them. By his grace, they would bind themselves one to another, and they should have the happiness of seeing the great work in which they were engaged maintained in its integrity, and extended on every side; and generations yet unborn should receive its blessings. (Loud applause.)

Before the Conference adjourned, it was agreed that the hours of sitting should be from nine till three o'clock, and from six till half-past eight or nine o'clock.

THANKS TO THE SECRETARY.

When the Conference had re-assembled, on Wednesday evening, the **EX-PRESIDENT** said there had devolved on him an exceedingly pleasant duty. It was to move the thanks of the Conference to the secretary, Dr. Hannah, for his valuable services during the year. He had had cause to rejoice, every day last Conference, that Dr. Hannah was called to fill that office. The kindness of his disposition, the readiness of his speech, his possessing the "pen of a ready writer"—all qualified him for his duties. He loved Dr. Hannah as his own soul, and cordially proposed the resolution.

MR. MARSDEN seconded it, observing that the Lord had graciously supported the secretary in his arduous office, and expressing a hope that, during the passing conflict, the Conference would be firm to every part of their system.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The **PRESIDENT** said he had great pleasure in presenting the vote. It was to him a personal gratification to be the medium of conveying it. Nearly forty years ago, he and the Secretary commenced their labours together as natives of the same county, and he felt happy that they were associated now.

The **SECRETARY** said he had great personal gratification in seeing the President occupy that position. He trusted it would please God to grant him grace during all the year of his office. He returned thanks to the **EX-PRESIDENT** for the kind terms in which he had proposed the resolution, and to the Conference for its expression of regard. It was always his delight to render any service in his power to the Connexion.

THANKS TO THE OTHER OFFICERS.

The **Rev. Dr. HANNAH** proposed thanks to the Assistant Secretaries, the **Revs. I. Keeling, John Farrar, and William Barton**, for their ser-

vices, and he also moved their re-appointment. He did not know that any Secretary could have a better staff.

The resolution, having been briefly seconded by the Rev. BARNARD SLATER, was unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT observed, in presenting the vote, that their services were duly appreciated. He hoped they would be sustained in health and vigour, and would continue their valuable labours.

Mr. KEELING acknowledged the vote, and trusted that by mutual co-operation they would be able to perform their duties.

The SECRETARY then proposed the thanks of the Conference to the Official Letter Writers, the Revs. J. Crowther, G. Osborn, and J. Bedford, which, being seconded by the Rev. R. Newstead, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. CROWTHER, in acknowledging the vote, said that the work to which they were appointed had been rendered easy to him by the judgement, ability, and assiduity of the excellent brethren with whom he was associated.

IRISH AND CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

The Revs. Thomas Waugh, John F. Mathews, and Dr. Appelbe, the representatives of the Irish Conference, were then introduced. Mr. WAUGH referred to Ireland as an afflicted country, and observed that if raised at all it must be raised by the religion of the Bible. On behalf of the Irish Conference, he then presented the annual address.

The SECRETARY stated that Dr. Egerton Ryerson had been appointed as the representative of the Canadian Conference; but, as he understood, circumstances might possibly prevent him from arriving in time, if at all; in which case Dr. Alder had been requested to act as representative.

The Rev. Dr. ALDER then explained the circumstances connected with the detention of Dr. Ryerson, and his having been requested to act on his behalf. He presented the address of the Canadian Conference, which he observed contained expressions of strong sympathy with this Conference under the circumstances in which it was placed.

LOYAL ADDRESS TO THE CROWN.

The SECRETARY observed that the officers of the Conference having been appointed, and representatives having been introduced, he begged to propose, as the first act of the Conference, after it had been fully constituted, that a loyal and dutiful address be presented to the Queen on the birth of another Prince, and he proposed that a committee be appointed to draw up the same. The motion was seconded by the Rev. WM. BARTON, and the Conference expressed its hearty and cordial assent. The address was subsequently read, adopted, and forwarded to Sir George Grey for presentation.

CIRCUIT MEMORIALS.

Enquiries were made when it would be a proper time to present these documents, upon which the law of 1835 relating thereto was read, stating that they were to be presented to the president on or before the second day of the Conference, and referred to a committee to be appointed to classify them, and report to the Conference thereon.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

The Conference then proceeded to the first of the usual questions for consideration, viz.: *Who are now to be admitted as ministers in full con-*

nexion with the Conference?" On examining the returns made from the several districts, it was found that thirty-four ministers in England, six in Ireland, and fourteen on the foreign stations, had honourably fulfilled the term of their probation, besides ten assistant missionaries who gave promise of usefulness in different parts of the foreign field. The names of the thirty-four English ministers will be given in the account of the Ordination Services.

The next question—"Who remain on trial?"—occupied the Conference until seven o'clock, when an adjournment took place, in consequence of the meeting of the Education Committee.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1.

After the usual devotional exercises,

The Rev. JOSEPH FOWLER rose to express his obligations to the last Conference, for the kindness with which they had treated him during his affliction, and for the spontaneous provision which they had made for the supply of his circuit during the year. He had no expectation that anything of the sort would have been done; but he had, in consequence, had the opportunity of taking a considerable amount of rest, from which he had derived considerable benefit, and he felt desirous to express his grateful feelings for the kindness thus shown him. He would take that opportunity of saying that he had great personal regard for the president, and that, whatever diversity of opinion there might have been in that assembly before the election, with respect to the person who should be called to fill its highest office, he trusted that now the president actually elected would receive the unanimous and cordial support which his office deserved, and that all feelings would be merged in the common resolution to sustain him. The times called for that unanimous support; and he hoped that everything would be done in that Conference as it ought to be done, and that no one would have cause to say that he had not had the fullest opportunity of expressing his opinions and feelings on any subject that might come before it.

The PRESIDENT in reply observed that he was sure the Conference was much gratified to find that, through the blessing of God, Mr. Fowler's health had been so far re-established. He was sure that he expressed the feelings of the Conference when he said that it was their earnest prayer that health might be fully restored, and that he might be long spared to the connexion. He was gratified by those expressions of personal kindness and regard which Mr. Fowler had uttered. He was prepared to receive them from Mr. Fowler, for whom he entertained a very high esteem. He and themselves were one on all great questions. It was his earnest wish that the business of the Conference might be conducted in all respects so as to give satisfaction to the brethren assembled, and promote the lasting good of the connexion.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were then read, and the question—"Who remain on trial?"—was resumed and concluded. In connection with this question, Conference ascertained what young men on the List of Reserve had been sent to supply vacancies during the year; also who remained on the list, and whether they still continued eligible as candidates for the ministry.

The next question was, "Who are now to be received on trial?" The

minutes of the several district meetings, and of the Examination Committee in London, were gone through in detail, and forty-one candidates were duly accepted from the districts in England, several in the Irish work, and eleven on the foreign stations. The names of the candidates from the English districts were as follows :—

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|--|---|
| 1. R. M. Young, First London Circuit. | 21. Wm. Cornforth, Wednesbury Circuit. |
| 2. John S. Vint, Romford Circuit. | 22. Joseph Cox, Dudley Circuit. |
| 3. R. Stephenson, Luton Circuit. | 23. Moses Cranmore, Redditch Cir. |
| 4. Theophilus Taylor, Dunstable Circuit. | 24. Thos. Cannell, Liverpool North Circuit. |
| 5. John O. Bate, Sittingbourne Circuit. | 25. Wm. Wilson, Liverpool South Circuit. |
| 6. G. A. Gaskell, Margate Circuit. | 26. Rd. Ridyard, Warrington Cir. |
| 7. Albert H. M'Tear, Hungerford Circuit. | 27. Saml. C. Evans, Southport Cir. |
| 8. William B. Wilding, Wantage Circuit. | 28. Edwin Cox, ditto. |
| 9. Chas. H. Bishop, Guernsey Cir. | 29. Geo. Bowden, Altrincham Cir. |
| 10. Saml. Ratcliffe, Plymouth Cir. | 30. Robert Belshaw, ditto |
| 11. John Vercoe, Camelford Cir. | 31. Wm. Robinson, Haslingden Cir. |
| 12. William Evans, Gwennap Cir. | 32. Wm. Barrowclough, Huddersfield 1st Circuit. |
| 13. John Cope, St. Austle Circuit. | 33. Stephen Cox, Derby Circuit. |
| 14. Wm. Pepperell, Tiverton Cir. | 34. Jason Chatterton, Lincoln Cir. |
| 15. G. W. Olver, Taunton Circuit. | 35. Thos. Brackenbury, Spilsby Cir. |
| 16. Richard Taylor, Gloucester Cir. | 36. William Dodsworth, York Cir. |
| 17. James R. Webb, Ledbury Cir. | 37. Saml. Wray, Pocklington Cir. |
| 18. Isaac Gold, Shepton-Mallet Cir. | 38. Chas. Bingant, Whitby Circuit. |
| 19. Wm. Hamer, Birmingham East Circuit. | 39. John Watson, Stockton Circuit. |
| 20. Joseph Gaskell, ditto. | 40. Thos. Mattrass, Wolsingham Circuit. |
| | 41. Featherston Kellett, ditto. |

THE PRESS.

The PRESIDENT said he had received an application from Mr. John Harrison, the editor of a paper calling itself the *Wesleyan Times*, and another from the editor of the *Christian Times*, each asking permission to send a Reporter to take down an account of the proceedings of the Conference. . . . It was at once resolved that these requests be disallowed, and the following was the answer to the former application :—

“ Wesleyan Conference, August 1, 1850.

“ SIR,—I beg, on behalf of the President of the Conference, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 31st, and to state that the Conference declines to comply with the request which it contains.

“ I remain, Sir, on behalf of the President,

“ Yours respectfully,

“ Mr. John Harrison, 80, Fleet-street.”

“ JON. CROWTHER.

THE REFORM DELEGATES.

The PRESIDENT announced, that he had received a communication, signed by R. S. Stanley and Joseph Massingham, stating that, on behalf of a Committee of Privileges, appointed at the delegate meeting, held in March last, they were ready to meet the Conference, or a committee ap-

pointed by it, on the subject of certain resolutions respecting the laws of Methodism, and also, inquiring when the Conference would receive certain memorials entrusted to their care for presentation.

The following is a copy of the letter :—

" To the President, Secretary, and Members of the Wesleyan Conference, now assembled ;

" REV. SIRS,—The Committee of Privileges, appointed by the eleventh Resolution of the meeting of Delegates from the Wesleyan Societies, assembled at Albion Chapel, Moorfields, on the 12th March last, and following days, respectfully intimate that they are now prepared to meet with the Conference, or a Committee to be appointed by the Conference, agreeably to the terms of the said resolution (which is enclosed).

" The Committee will feel obliged by a reply, if possible, by the close of to-morrow morning's sitting of the Conference, informing them when and where it will be convenient for the said meeting to be held.

" The Committee of Privileges, having a large number of numerous signed memorials entrusted to them for presentation to the Conference, will also be glad to be informed when the Conference will receive them.

" We have the honour to be, Rev. Sirs, on behalf of the said Committee, your most humble and obedient servants,

" Signed, ROBERT SWANN STANLEY, } Secretaries.
JOSEPH MASSINGHAM,

" 11, Exeter Hall, July 31, 1850."

A long conversation ensued, involving various points, in the course of which it appeared that there was a great diversity of opinion respecting the answer to be made to this communication. Some ministers thought that, to give any answer would be an admission of the right of the parties to address the Conference as representatives of the delegates ;—others observed, that the mere acknowledgement of the receipt of a communication did not sanction the opinions of those who sent it ;—a large class appeared to be of opinion that, apart from the unauthorized character of the delegates and their communication, it was desirable to send an answer embodying reasons for the refusal of the Conference to receive them. Ultimately, it was agreed to adopt this course, and a Committee was appointed to draw up an answer, and submit it to the Conference. The committee was composed of the President, the Secretary (Dr. Hannah), the ex-President (Thomas Jackson), Dr. Bunting, Samuel Jackson, John Scott, Isaac Keeling, John Lomas, Samuel D. Waddy, George Osborn, and one or two others. On Saturday Afternoon the committee brought in their reply, which, after being read to the Conference, was forwarded the same evening to Exeter Hall. It is as follows :—

" Wesleyan Conference, August 3, 1850.

" GENTLEMEN,—On behalf of the Conference, we beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, addressed ' to the President, Secretary, and Members of the Conference,' and purporting to be an intimation from a ' Committee of Privileges, appointed by the Eleventh Resolution of a meeting of Delegates from the Wesleyan Societies, assembled in Albion Chapel, Moorfields, on the 12th March last, and following days,' to the effect that the members of the said ' Committee' are ' prepared to meet with the Conference, or a Committee appointed by the Conference, agreeably to the terms of the said resolution ;' and that you ' will be glad to be informed when the Conference will be prepared to receive certain

memorials,' stated by you to be 'entrusted to the said Committee for presentation to the Conference.' In reply to that communication, we are directed by the Conference to remind you that the Conference has been, and is, at all times, prepared to receive and consider with respectful attention, any communications, in the way of memorials or otherwise, addressed to it, on matters touching either local or connexional interests, provided that such memorials, or other communications, proceed from members of Society in their individual capacity, or from meetings duly called and constituted according to our existing rules.

"With respect to the communication which you have forwarded, it is scarcely necessary to remind you that the committee of which you represent yourselves to be the Secretaries was appointed at a meeting which had no authority to make such an appointment, and that the existence and action of a Committee so appointed, are a deliberate and flagrant violation of the discipline of Methodism.

"The Conference has good reason for doubting whether any single Society, or Circuit, or body of Trustees, in its *collective* capacity, appointed any individual as a delegate to the meeting held in London on the 12th of March last. And, even supposing all the persons who attended the meeting to have been formally and *bona fide* appointed, as representatives or delegates from the Societies, or circuits, or trusts, with which they professed to be respectively connected, still the Conference is solemnly persuaded that such a meeting of confederated delegates, especially considering the circumstances under which it was called, and the objects which it was proposed thereby to accomplish, was totally at variance with the great principles and positive regulations on which we depend, in a great degree, as a connexion, for the due maintenance of Christian order, and the edification and peace of our society.

"Under these circumstances, the Conference, having regard to the purity and welfare of the Societies under its care, and to its solemn obligations to maintain inviolate the disciplinary system of Wesleyan Methodism, deems itself bound to adhere to the principles stated at large in the Minutes of 1835, and to the resolution then avowed not to hold communication with any association, confederacy, or committee, organized on 'divisive and disorderly principles,' like those which characterize the proceedings of the parties with whom you are unhappily identified.

"The Conference, therefore, respectfully declines to make any appointment for holding a meeting with the committee which you represent, or for receiving the memorials to which your letter refers as having been entrusted to your care.—We are, Gentlemen, on behalf of the Conference, yours respectfully.

"Signed,

JOHN BEECHAM, President.

JOHN HANNAH, Secretary.

"To Messrs. R. S. Stanley and Joseph Massingham,
11, Exeter Hall, Strand."

SUPERNUMERARY MINISTERS.

The next question which came before the Conference, included two particulars, viz.:—"What Ministers are to become Supernumeraries?" and "What Ministers, being Supernumeraries, are again, in consequence of the restoration of their health, to be appointed to Circuits?"

The following Ministers received permission to become Supernumeraries:—Revs. W. Griffith, John Coates, John Ingham, William Sharpe, John Shipman, James Hocart, Thomas Robinson (for one year), William

Harvie, William Vevers, John Osborne, Robert Owen, David Williams, James H. Rigg (for one year), Barnard Slater, Lot Hughes, William Coultas, William Sleigh, Peter Prescott, Thomas Kilner, Myles C. Dixon, Samuel Brocksope, and Paul Clarke.

The following are to be again appointed to Circuits:—John Nelson, 1st, William Williams, 1st, Joseph Hunt, Thomas Stead, John Nicklin, Robert T. Rundle.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Rev. R. NEWSTEAD placed in the hands of the Secretary the draft of a memorial to the Government, in support of the measure recently adopted, by which the Post-office has been closed on the Sabbath Day. The memorial, having been read by the Secretary, was unanimously adopted; and it was also agreed that, instead of being signed by the President alone, on behalf of the Conference, each Minister, who felt disposed, should affix his name and residence.

DECEASE OF MINISTERS.

The next question—"What Ministers have died since last Conference?"—is always considered with great solemnity. The brief memorials of departed piety and ministerial usefulness, which are read to the Conference, are listened to with marked attention, and, in some instances, with deep emotion. The president commenced the proceedings by giving out the hymn—"Come let us join our friends above." The following thirty-three cases of death were reported:—

IN ENGLAND.

Name.	Circuit.	Age.	Year when ministry commenced.
Joseph Brookhouse	First London	84 ..	1795
Seth Morris	First London	65 ..	1812
Richard Reece	Second London	81 ..	1787
Robert Wheeler	Fourth London	76 ..	1801
James Hedges	Bedford	32 ..	1840
George H. Rowe	Maidstone	64 ..	1808
Reuben Partridge	Wisbeach	36 ..	1836
William Welborne	Lowestoft	80 ..	1798
William Thomas	Redruth	— ..	1843
Joseph Bowes	Bristol North	83 ..	1792
William Mowat	Stroud	62 ..	1812
Fras. B. Potts	Bath	— ..	1808
John Lesson	Sherborne	— ..	1847
Humphrey Parsons	Ludlow ..	82 ..	1793
Joseph Akrell	Chester	33 ..	1836
Joseph Meek	Preston	74 ..	1800
Calverley Riley	Liverpool	71 ..	1810
William Shelmerdine	Fourth Manchester	90 ..	1789
William Webb	Fourth Manchester	35 ..	1835
Thomas Powell	Beverley	59 ..	1822
Fras. Derry	Hull East	77 ..	1802
John Rawson	Reeth	74 ..	1808
John M. Pearson	Stockton	42 ..	1833

IN IRELAND.

Matthew Lanktree	Belfast	79 ..	1794
Thomas Loughhead	Tullamore	78 ..	1801
John C. Irvine	Ballyshannon	77 ..	1806
James McClintock	Killesandra	38 ..	1845
Patrick Ffrench	Drogheda	75 ..	1818
William Guard	Donegal	52 ..	1821

ON THE FOREIGN STATIONS.

William Longbottom	Australia	— ..	1827
Matthew Lang	Newfoundland	— ..	1823
Sampson Busby	New Brunswick	— ..	1812
John Mortier	West Indies	— ..	1814

On the notice relating to the venerable Richard Reece being read, several ministers detailed various circumstances connected with his history and ministerial career, and pointed out some of the more striking features which marked his character.

Mr. S. D. WADDY paid a tribute to the memory of this good and eminent man, by whom he had been sent into the ministry. He referred especially to his affection for the young, his uniform endeavours to promote their welfare, his personal sanctification, and his firm attachment to Methodist discipline, manifested especially during his presidency in 1835. It was not just that a statement which had been made, that he had changed his opinion respecting the administration of discipline, should go down to posterity uncontradicted.

The SECRETARY said it was his lot, in 1824, to accompany Mr. Reece to the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, and he had since had various opportunities of knowing the character of that excellent man. He regarded him as a beautiful specimen of Christian perfection;—a living example of that perfect love which he delighted to teach. That venerable man had lived to his Lord, he had died in the Lord, and he now slept in Jesus;—and concerning him, as of all saints, they had the assurance that in the last day, death would be swallowed up in victory. The last time he heard him preach was at Bristol; his subject was the vision of Isaiah, as related in the 6th chapter of that prophet; and he (the secretary) had never had a more impressive view of that sublime vision than was then exhibited.

Mr. PREST wished to add his tribute of respect to Mr. Reece's memory. He had commenced preaching under his direction; he had been favoured with his salutary counsel; and he owed to him a great deal. He hoped his attachment to discipline, especially as manifested in 1835, would be set forth.

Dr. BUNTING had the honour of becoming acquainted with Mr. Reece at an early period of his own life, and when his principles were being formed. Some had referred to Mr. Reece in the Conference of 1835, but he had known him in 1797, at the time of the New Connexion division. Mr. Reece, at the request of Mr. Mather, spent, at that period, a month in Manchester; and though then comparatively young, he took a decided course. In reference to his supposed unconquerable aversion to expulsion, he (Dr. B.) could give a most decided contradiction. He knew his sentiments on that subject, at least. Mr. Reece had, indeed, a strong aversion to premature divisions and expulsions; but he also had a strong opinion that there were times when to keep certain persons in society was a crime

against Christ. Mr. Reece had contributed to the settlement of his views concerning the Christian ministry. He (Dr. B.) had afterwards spent some time with him at Macclesfield. Let those who loved to exaggerate Mr. Reece's views of peace call to mind what had occurred when Mr. Bramwell's and Mr. Henry Taylor's cases were brought before the Conference. Who was more decided then? Not to advert more particularly to his admirable administration of discipline in 1835, he would observe that, during recent proceedings, he had frequent opportunities of knowing Mr. Reece's sentiments, and that, whilst he disliked hasty expulsions, no one, when it was needful to separate offenders, was more decided. From all the intercourse he had had with him, he was led to form a high idea of his Christian, apostolical, and ministerial character.... Dr. Bunting then glanced at Mr. Reece's attention to the young, his efforts to induce persons to join the Society, his intercourse with families, during which he was always ready to say a word for God; and his catholicity of feeling, which was manifested without any idea of the abandonment of that denominational zeal which would not set his own body aside. He concluded by saying that he revered his memory, and thanked God that he ever knew him.

Mr. JOHN FARRAR said, few of the junior ministers of that body had had more frequent opportunities of observing Mr. Reece than himself, and he had cause to venerate him. He had received from him his first religious impressions. He had been stationed with him when he was last President, and had observed his great patience in trying circumstances. After one meeting of a painful nature, he (Mr. F.) expressed his admiration of his calmness and forbearance, whereupon Mr. Reece took a slip of paper out of his pocket, containing a quotation from Horace, which might be freely paraphrased, "Whitening hair softens the mind."

Dr. NEWTON wished to say a word. It was either the 50th or 49th year since he first saw Mr. Reece, who then spoke kindly to him, and made an impression upon his mind which had never been effaced. He had had the privilege of being one of his colleagues, about forty years ago, in London, and he had observed his exact attention to every part of their economy. His preaching was evangelical and practical, his attention to discipline was constant and uniform, his Christian character was marked by dignity and affection, and he displayed much of the "meekness of wisdom." His attention to the young was remarkable. When he (Dr. N.) resided in Liverpool, his own children were young; Mr. Reece often visited them, and he believed his children would never forget the kind and paternal counsels of that venerable man. On one occasion, a stranger from another country, after observing him, said, "That be a great man—that be one of your nobility." He fully concurred in the sentiment. At the last Conference, many of the brethren had remarked how ready he was to speak for his blessed Master and his work. As to anything wavering in Mr. Reece, respecting their discipline, he did not think it for a moment. Mr. Reece was not given to change or compromise; he was a man of firm principle. Many present would remember what he said at the last Conference, in reference to the expulsions which then took place—"You are doing that now which you ought to have done three years ago." He (Dr. N.) was sorry that anything should have been said to produce a contrary impression. A more faithful man had never lived.

Dr. BEAUMONT had known Mr. Reece forty-five and a half years, and had enjoyed his friendship during that period. He must observe that

Mr. Reece's views were best known by Mr. Reece's practice. He had said nothing of him but what was in harmony with his public life and sentiments. Allusion had been made to an appendix to the sermon which he had preached on the occasion of Mr. Reece's death. Everything there stated was a record in the writing of Mr. Reece's friends, and he could not, therefore, conceal that expression of their views. He had nothing to retract respecting it. Mr. Reece was a firm man, eminently so, but he loved peace. Expulsions he deprecated, on all grounds, except those clearly defined in Scripture. He (Dr. B.) maintained that the stream of his practice showed the correctness of that statement. As to the "character" which had been read, it was a brief outline, and might be filled up if necessary; he had referred in it to his paternal solicitude for the young. As to the Conference of 1835, he had referred to Mr. Reece being President at that Conference. If it were the will of the Conference that more should be said on that subject,—well. He did not agree to it, at this time particularly; but if the Conference thought otherwise,—so be it; then the whole must come out. Perhaps it might be well that it should, sometime. However, he submitted the sketch to the emendations and improvements of the Conference.

Mr. Scott had not had an intimate knowledge of Mr. Reece during part of his life, but he had marked his public course. It was his privilege to attend the Conference when Mr. Reece was President the first time, and for many years since. The Conference had lost much in losing Mr. Reece. He had marked his discriminating wisdom, and his Methodistical sentiments, and he believed Mr. Reece would never compromise Methodism. He never could forget the sentiments which that venerable man had uttered when he addressed the Conference in 1835, and when he pronounced the expulsion of Dr. Warren. He had pronounced that expulsion with a very full heart, but with great firmness. It had been his honour to accompany Mr. Reece during the year of his last Presidency to Cornwall. Some circuits there, at that time, were in a state of great agitation. He remembered his speech at one place, where there were several agitators in the front of the gallery. Mr. Reece took his favourite figure of Methodism being a ship, which was conveying souls across the ocean of life to the port of heaven. He observed, that it had borne multitudes to that heavenly port, and was still carrying large cargoes; but occasionally there was mutiny on board, and the officers had to deal with mutineers: when they could not bring them to a better mind, he said it was necessary to throw them overboard, and then the ship went on as if nothing had happened. Mr. Reece was quite prepared, in such a case, to throw mutineers overboard. He regretted that any expression, come from what quarter it might, should throw a shade over Mr. Reece's character in this respect. The impression of some who heard his funeral sermon preached was, that Mr. Reece had condemned those who had proceeded to expulsions. But he believed Mr. Reece would never have been the man to see Methodism trampled upon by rebellion. In one word, he was forbearing, but firm. He (Mr. Scott) felt very solemnly on the occasion. One by one, the venerable men to whom he had been accustomed to look up in that Conference, and whose judgement had guided him, were called from among them: there were but few left of those whom he had known in his youth. On this account, their position as a Conference became more responsible, but he trusted that God would raise up successors such as they had lost.

Mr. BARTON thought that Dr. Beaumont's allusions, in the "charac-

ter" he had drawn up, to two or three points, were not sufficiently understood. He also observed that there was no reference in it to the utter absence of everything in Mr. Reece's character which would produce disaffection,—the spirit over which they had to deplore at present.

Mr. C. COOK adverted to the interest which Mr. Reece had shown in the French work, and the respect which he consequently felt for his memory. To his suavity, urbanity, and Christian zeal they owed the conversion of a successful labourer now in that work.

Mr. ARTHUR had seen Mr. Reece often during his last illness. The last conversation but one that he had with him had reference to connexional affairs; but on that he would not dwell. He could not but regret that anything should be said in connection with his character to raise a discussion of that sort. When Ishmael went to the burial of Abraham, no words passed between the relatives but those of peace.

Dr. BUNTING could not now recollect all that he had heard about the funeral sermon of Mr. Reece, and he had never seen the sermon itself till that morning; but from what he had heard before he thought there must have been some exaggeration of what had really been said. There might be some unfortunate expressions, but there were many very valuable passages. He had read one striking passage containing the sentiment that duty must be done, whatever consequences ensued. He also observed that some little allowances must be made for the family in sending such a statement; they were in the midst of an excited circuit. He proposed that the "character" should be referred to a small committee to expand some points and supply others. He well remembered what Mr. Reece had said at the last book committee as to what would be done at this Conference. They would receive memorials, he observed, from different circuits, they would classify them, and number the particulars 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on; and they would say, as to number one we cannot agree to that; or number two we can agree to that, and so forth; and then they would go forward in the name of the Lord. This was his last advice to his brethren in the book committee.

Dr. BEAUMONT observed that he had written the sermon, and had done what he had never done before, stuck to what he had written. He could not submit to the imputation of anything offensive.

Mr. LOMAS concurred in the suggestion respecting a committee, which was then formed.

On the character of Mr. Meek being read, Dr. BUNTING made some appropriate remarks respecting the great honour which God had put upon that deceased minister and his family, in their united affection, piety, and Methodist discipline; and he adverted to the delight with which he had visited the family, at the last Conference, and had witnessed their Christian love and order.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

The SECRETARY stated that the next question in order was, "*Are there any objections to any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial?*" The PRESIDENT reminded the Conference that the question included four particulars:—1st, their moral and religious character; 2nd, their belief and preaching of Wesleyan doctrine; 3rd, their observance and enforcement of discipline; and 4th, their general ability for the ministerial work. In the district meetings, each of these questions had been put separately: it was usual for Conference to take up the whole together, but, when any unusual case had occurred, to expect an answer to each particular.

In the absence of the Ex-President, who was stated to be extremely unwell, it was agreed that the London District, of which he was chairman, should be deferred.

The Examination was then commenced with the next district in order on the Minutes.

In the Norwich and Lynn district minutes the case of the Rev. Thos. Rowland was brought before the Conference. It appeared that, having been called upon to take part in the proceedings of a minor district meeting, Mr. Rowland had put in a document, assigning some reasons for refusing to concur in those proceedings, which document contained severe and unwarrantable reflections on the principles and administration of the Conference, and had been published and widely circulated. . . . It was resolved that Mr. Rowland should be required to attend in his place, and either defend or retract his statements.

INTRUSION OF MR. DUNN.

While the Conference was engaged in the examination of "character," a voice was suddenly heard from a minister near the door, announcing that Samuel Dunn was in the Conference. Mr. Dunn at the same moment walked into the middle of the aisle, and attempted to address the assembly. This, however, was prevented by loud cries of "No, no," from the ministers, in the midst of which the officer of the Trustees walked up to Mr. Dunn, and obliged him to withdraw. At the door, Mr. Dunn laid down six sovereigns, intimating that that was his subscription to the Preachers' Annuitant Society, of which he still claimed to be a member. It appeared, on inquiry, that Mr. Dunn had availed himself of the temporary absence of the door-keeper, to enter the chapel.

The *Wesleyan Times*, in giving an account of this strange and somewhat amusing incident, says, that Mr. Dunn, regarding himself as illegally expelled, and having been a subscriber to the Preachers' Annuitant Society, proceeded to City-road Chapel, on Friday, for the purpose of tendering his annual subscription, and at the time had no intention of entering the building. He alighted from an omnibus at the gate, walked up the chapel-yard, passing on his way several preachers, none of whom recognised him. There being no door-keepers present, in fact, the doors being open, Mr. Dunn, acting on the impulse of the moment, proceeded up the aisle of the chapel. He had advanced but a short way, when the Rev. Isaac Denison shouted, at the top of his stentorian voice, "Mr. President, Mr. Samuel Dunn is in the Conference!" The President rose, Dr. Bunting jumped on his feet, and the entire Conference was in commotion in a moment. Mr. Dunn, addressing the chair, protested against his expulsion by the last Conference, but he was clamoured down, the President being powerless before the storm. Mr. Dunn repeated his protest, but could not finish his sentence for the noise. An individual, attired as a preacher, aided by the chapel-keeper and some others, then took the civil power into their own hands, and dragged the unexpected and unwelcome visitor to the door, and pushed him into the yard. The *Watchman* says, that it was distinctly ascertained that no minister had taken any part in the removal of Mr. Dunn.

MR. ROWLAND'S CASE.

On Friday evening Mr. Rowland's case was resumed, and the document above referred to was read. Mr. Rowland denied having been privy to its publication, and expressed his surprise that it should have

appeared in print.—Circumstances were then stated, by several ministers, tending to show that parties had been secreted on the premises, at the time when the Minor District Meeting was sitting, and that there was reason to suppose it was through these parties the documents had obtained publicity.

A discussion ensued, which ended in a resolution, that Mr. Rowland should have notice to answer, at some convenient time, for the sentiments which he had thus avowed.

LYNN CIRCUIT.

The Rev. SAMUEL TINDALL, of Lynn, gave the Conference an account of the agitators in that circuit, and of the circumstances which led to their secession. He had been charged with being a man of war, but this was a great mistake. He was a man of peace, and all that he had done in the Lynn circuit and in the district, of which for a short time he had had the charge, was to restore peace. Scarcely had the last Conference closed its sittings when some of the local preachers became loud in their disapprobation in reference to its acts. The superintendent met the society on the first Sunday evening after his return from the Conference, and gave a full statement of its proceedings. This statement tended greatly to allay the excitement which had been produced, but some restless spirits who took a leading part in the agitations of 1835, resolved to give expression to their sentiments on the occasion. One of their number, who acted as the organ of the party, wrote to the circuit stewards requesting them to call a society meeting, in order that the acts of the Conference might be by them discussed. This the stewards declined doing, alleging that they had no Methodistical authority to call such a meeting. The same person then applied to the superintendent for the use of the school-room, that the members of the society might be convened to express their opinion on the expulsions which had taken place, and to take action to secure their reversal. This of course was refused. A meeting was then called by the above gentleman, to be held in the Temperance Hall. The meeting was held, and the various speakers indulged in very strong expressions of disapprobation of the proceedings of Conference. The opinions and conscientious convictions of 500 ministers were treated with the utmost disdain; the most corrupt and unchristian motives were attributed to them; and the vilest slanders were heaped upon some of the best men in the connexion. This meeting created great excitement, and threw the circuit into a state of the utmost confusion. At the Local Preachers' meeting, which was held a short time after, those preachers who had taken a prominent part in the above meeting were interrogated as to their attendance, and the sentiments they expressed; and as to whether their proceedings could be justified by Methodist rules. Not a man could justify himself. The superintendent then informed them that, although they had been guilty of a breach of rule, no further notice would be taken of this violation of order, provided that the act were not repeated. A few weeks after, the expelled ministers were invited to Lynn. A public meeting was held, and a public breakfast given. This was on the very eve of the annual missionary meeting, and the speakers, in no measured terms, animadverted upon the lavish expenditure of the Mission-house, and recommended that the supplies should be stopped. This meeting was followed by the agitators organizing measures for collecting moneys for the expelled, and for carrying on a system of agitation throughout the circuit. One of them, publicly and in print, impugned

the acts of official circuit meetings,—branded the proceedings of public men,—assumed the functions of principal officers,—virtually superseded the superintendent,—and took upon himself the entire control of the circuit. This occasioned immense confusion. The minds of many were deeply pained, and it became indispensable that something should be done to restore peace, and to afford protection to those who were anxious to be saved from what was to them an intolerable annoyance. After repeated private remonstrance and entreaty, without effect, this man was summoned to a leaders' meeting to answer for his conduct. His own acknowledged speeches and published letters formed a strong body of evidence against him, — a majority of the leaders expressed their conviction that the charges had been fully sustained, and after postponing the matter for a week, and consultation with the principal friends in the circuit, nothing remained but to put away the offending party, unless he would consent to abstain from his agitating and divisive course. This he refused to do, and he was accordingly expelled. At the Local Preachers' Meeting, held in December, some of the friends of the expelled were anxious for his restoration; and the Superintendent, to show that there was no vindictive feeling on his part, proposed that, if that gentleman would engage to give up agitating, and use the offices of Leader and Local Preacher for the purpose for which they were given him, he would at once restore him. This bold proposal, which was certainly carrying mercy in a flagrant case to the utmost point, alarmed some of the friends of constitutional order, and his friends thought he ought to accept this offer. He, however, obstinately declined it; and the only condition on which he would consent to restoration was, "that he should be permitted to do as he pleased." "Now, Mr. President," asked the speaker, "have I been precipitate? Have I been rash and hasty? Nothing but stern necessity could have induced me to take the course I have taken; but as a faithful Wesleyan minister, entrusted with the care of an important circuit, I could not allow the discipline of the Connexion to be trampled under foot without being guilty of a base betrayal of my trust. This I could not make up my mind to do, and therefore resolved to maintain the interests of the body against the wanton encroachments of unfaithful men. This has exposed me to severe censure from those who wish to revolutionize the Wesleyan constitution; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have done my duty to Christ, and that I have the approbation of him 'whose favour is better than life.'"

On resuming his seat, the Rev. Dr. BUNTING moved, and the Rev. Dr. NEWTON seconded, the thanks of the Conference to the Rev. Samuel Tindall and the ministers in the Norwich and Lynn district, who had faithfully maintained the discipline of the Connexion. This was carried unanimously, and strong expressions were uttered of sympathy with the ministers who had been stationed in that district, and determination to uphold the great principles of the Connexion against all opposition.

ALTERATIONS IN CIRCUITS.

In the absence of several representatives of Districts, it was agreed to postpone the further consideration of the question upon ministerial character, and to inquire what divisions or alterations of Circuits were desirable. This inquiry occupied the remainder of the sitting.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3.

The Sub-Secretary, Mr. KEELING, read the minutes of the proceedings

of the previous day. The Conference then proceeded with the examination of the characters of the preachers. There were very few cases of what may be termed immoral conduct; and, perhaps, few bodies of men of the same numerical existence, stand in this respect so clear.

The **PRESIDENT** inquired of Mr. Rowland whether he wished his case to be then proceeded with, or deferred, that he might have longer time for preparation.

Mr. **ROWLAND** replied, that he was taken by surprise last evening, and wished his case to be postponed until Monday.—It was agreed, that on some later day the matter should be investigated.

Mr. **FOWLER** called the attention of the Conference to the existing regulations of the Contingent Fund, as they interfered, in his opinion, with an increased supply of ministerial labour; and he suggested, that a Committee should be appointed to consider whether some modification might not be adopted, without embarrassing the Contingent Fund. After a free conversation, it was agreed to refer the matter to a Committee, which was subsequently named.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.—MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

The Minutes of the Bath District brought before the Conference the case of Mr. Bromley. These Minutes were read at large, and a letter was also read, from Mr. Bromley, appealing against the decision of the Special District Meeting, by which he was suspended. That letter expressed his belief that the sentence was intensely illegal and absurd, and intimated that he had treated it with the utmost disregard.

A discussion arose on the question—Whether Mr. Bromley, by the course which he had pursued, in refusing to take his trial at the District Meeting, and by treating its decision with contempt, by pursuing a course of agitation, had not deprived himself of all right of appeal?

After some observations from Messrs. **OSBORN** and **NAYLOR**—

Dr. **BUNTING** commented on Mr. Bromley's refusal to appear before the proper District Meeting, observing that, after the decision in Dr. Warren's case, a man who so refused, deprived himself of all right to appeal. At the last Conference Mr. Bromley was allowed to be heard at large before a Committee, and had said that, if he were a sane man, he would convince the Committee that his views were right. Whether sane or not, he had failed to convince them; and, after the promises and pledges he had subsequently given, to preserve a peaceable deportment, he (Dr. B.) could not think that such a man should, time after time, have the right of occupying the time of the Conference.

Dr. **NEWTON** observed, that in that Committee, Mr. Bromley had said, that if he did not convince them, he would never trouble the Conference again.

Mr. **W. M. BUNTING** fully acknowledged that Mr. Bromley had forfeited all legal, perhaps, also, all equitable right to be heard; yet it might, possibly, become the Conference to crown all its previous acts of forbearance and kindness towards him, by waiving that consideration, and conceding to him the privilege of appeal. From his known peculiarities of character, they might grant him that, as a matter of grace. In case his appeal should be allowed, he did not think, however, that the Conference should permit him to take the ground of objection to the law of 1835—disputing their right to question members of their own body. But, possibly, Mr. Bromley might take another ground, namely, that he had not broken his compact with the last Conference, and, it might be

argued, that if he were expelled without being heard, he would have no opportunity of proving that he had not broken that compact. He (Mr. B.) considered his conduct highly reprehensible, but still he wished him to be allowed, in equity, an opportunity of convincing the Conference, if he so desired, that, on that particular point, he had not broken the compact.

Dr. BEAUMONT inquired whether Mr. Bromley had been informed that he was at liberty to attend the General District Meeting, and appeal. The ground taken against his right to appeal might be technically and legally sustained, but he doubted the wisdom. What was the ground taken with Dr. Warren? He had entered on a course of agitation, and had pursued it to the utmost of his power; but though he did so the Conference had admitted his appeal, guarding themselves by a declaration that he was not legally entitled to it. So far as he knew, Mr. Bromley had not agitated the connexion. He had been shut out of the Wesleyan chapels, but in obedience to the law and dicta of his conscience he had felt that he must preach. He thought that an individual might be placed in circumstances so peculiar as to feel himself bound to violate pledges which he had previously given. (Murmurs of disapprobation.) He would urge that the appeal be received, and that Mr. Bromley be heard.

Dr. BUNTING read from the minutes of 1885 a portion of the record in Dr. Warren's case. He especially emphasised that part which, in granting him the privilege of appeal, declared that the deviation in that instance from ordinary rule, though consented to by the district meeting, should be considered as solely in the way of an indulgence on a peculiar occasion, and should not on any account be drawn into a precedent.

Dr. DIXON observed that the brethren would suppose from the part he took last year, that he must feel some interest—a great amount of interest—in Mr. Bromley's case. He did not appear now as Mr. Bromley's apologist. He greatly regretted the course Mr. Bromley had taken since he went back to the Bath circuit. After what took place in the committee last year in this case, and moreover, considering the promises he then made not to agitate the connexion respecting his peculiar views, he did think that Mr. Bromley should have kept quiet. They knew, who knew him at all, that he possessed some peculiarities of mental constitution. He now came before them as a suspended minister, with the prospect as he (Dr. D.) supposed of expulsion. The case put before the Conference respecting the right of appeal being forfeited, in some of its features at any rate, had not been ruled; for though they suspended a minister they did not enjoin absolute silence. (Dissent.) He thought it would be right to give Mr. Bromley the benefit of that. He believed that though Mr. Bromley had been announced to take part in a reform meeting at Manchester, yet it was altogether without his consent, and his principle had been to keep out of that sort of agitation. But he had thought himself at liberty to go to regularly-established congregations connected with other religious bodies. Now the District Meeting had not prohibited that. Whether Mr. Bromley had acted prudently or wisely in the matter or not he did not say; but as they had not ruled such a case, he would let him have the benefit of their silence. He thought Mr. Bromley had acted extremely wrong in not accepting the lawful court which had been called for his trial. What he did was to claim another court, and his appeal now was made on the ground of his right to do so. It might be wrongly made; but still he felt disposed to concede it. Moreover, notwithstanding the disclaimer in the minutes of 1885, that they would not

acknowledge the case of Dr. Warren as a precedent, yet it was one. (No, no.) In looking at the matter as a moral and religious matter, a matter affecting them all, he thought it would be a wise thing to accede to Mr. Bromley's proposal.

Mr. RICE said he would only detain the Conference for a very short time in saying two or three words. For himself, he was anxious that the Conference should extend to Mr. Bromley every indulgence which was consistent with principle and justice. He had never felt at all unkindly towards Mr. Bromley. He would be best pleased personally by Mr. Bromley's being heard, and wished the whole case to come out. He desired that his whole conduct should be known to his brethren. But there were some facts in reference to Mr. Bromley's conduct since his suspension, which he thought it necessary and right that the Conference should know. It was not true, as had been affirmed by Dr. Beaumont, that Mr. Bromley had been silent so far as Wesleyan pulpits were concerned since his suspension. He had preached, in spite of the sentence of the District Meeting, twice in Wesleyan chapels in the Bath district,—he had celebrated marriage in a Wesleyan chapel,—he had gone to Frome and preached in a Baptist chapel, and after preaching delivered an address and made a collection on behalf of Wesleyan Reform. These facts he felt bound to state, yet he hoped the Conference would show Mr. Bromley whatever indulgence was in their power, and if possible and right, hear him personally, in defence or explanation of his conduct.

Mr. S. D. WADDY dissented from Dr. Dixon's statement on one point,—he considered that the sentence of suspension did imply silence; certainly it did in our chapels; and as to other places, if he were engaged as a Wesleyan minister and preached in that capacity, it was a violation of the sentence. His doing so would cause the assembling together of a large number of disaffected people. Preaching under such circumstances was a repetition of his offence, and an aggravation of his contumacy. He feared that if Mr. Bromley came before the Conference, and repeated again and again his promises to submit to it, he would never keep them. He had lost all confidence in him in that respect; but if for the sake of some of our people—say for instance Bath—they could guard their right to refuse his appeal, but yet permit it, he should be glad. Even then the waste—for a fearful waste it would be—the waste of time of the Conference in hearing him, just for the benefit of some of their people, might be of some service to them but not to him.

Mr. FOWLER would like the appeal to be granted, with the restriction named by Mr. William Bunting. He felt disposed to agree with Dr. Dixon that the Conference had never so ruled, in cases of suspension, as to prohibit a man's preaching for other denominations. To preach in one of our chapels after suspension was utterly indefensible.

The PRESIDENT said he had not yet ascertained whether those who were in favour of allowing the appeal wished Mr. Bromley to be heard in the Conference or before a committee.

Mr. FOWLER observed that if they consented to hear him, it must be before any committee they appointed.

Mr. SCOTT felt some difficulty in the case. He could not but observe the attack made on their discipline, which they were bound to uphold. He seriously felt that if an appeal were allowed to a person who would not meet his trial before a district meeting, the Conference would concede very much to the popular objection against district meetings. Before they did so he would have them to pause and consider the effect of voting

so had a precedent. There was a great difference between this and Dr. Warren's case. Mr. Bromley had been before the Conference again and again, and had repeatedly violated his solemn pledges. Now Dr. Warren had not done that; he therefore deserved an indulgence which Mr. Bromley did not. He thought they would offend against God and their community by taking up the time of the Conference under such circumstances.

Mr. CORBETT COOKE observed that Mr. Bromley had gone about preaching among all sorts of people. In one instance, at Macclesfield, in order to get people together, it was announced that after preaching in the Association Chapel he would state his case, and he did so. Their best people would be grieved if they allowed the appeal.

Mr. HAYDON observed that whether they considered Mr. Bromley's case by itself, or in its bearing on other people, they would lose nothing by that grave and serious consideration of the best course of action. Looking at all circumstances, he favoured the suggestion of admitting his appeal; but he would strictly limit him to the points to which that appeal should be confined.

Mr. ISAAC KEELING remarked that it might be the policy of the Conference for a few weeks just now, to allow this appeal, but they must look also at what would be the effect in all time thereafter. Now, if they allowed the appeal, would there be any necessity for any man to abstain in future from resisting the authority of a district meeting in the interval between such a meeting and the Conference.

Mr. ROBERT YOUNG thought that as a matter of courtesy it would be prudent to hear Mr. Bromley; but that to prevent his case being drawn into a precedent, it might be proper to make a rule, declaring that no man who hereafter refused to submit to a minor court should have the right to appeal to the Conference.

The PRESIDENT observed that such a rule was in effect implied in the decision in Dr. Warren's case.

Dr. NEWTON said, the Conference had a choice of difficulties. Supposing Mr. Bromley to be heard; those who knew him knew that he would wish to be heard on all his points, and if not so heard, he would declare the Conference had refused to hear him; and that would do more mischief than refusing his appeal altogether. He knew what was in Mr. Bromley's heart, respecting Dr. Warren's case, and the judgement of the Lord Chancellor, and was sure his heart had not been with them since. Then, after the solemn promises made last year, that the Conference should never again have matter of complaint against him, he (Dr. N.) had lost all confidence in him. He had done what he could for him at the Sheffield Conference in 1836, and at the Manchester Conference in 1849, but he could not, in his heart, consent to this appeal now.

Dr. BUNTING—"The point to be looked at is the right of District Meetings, which must be upheld. Some are anxious to conciliate waverers; but are they ready to coalesce with opponents? The principal point in the memorials sent to the Conference relates to the right of District Meetings to over-rule the decisions of circuit courts. Are they prepared to give up that right? (No, no.) They may depend upon it that, in granting this appeal, they are going with their opponents." He (Dr. B.) saw they were desirous of granting it; (no, no;) but he, for one, must give his vote against it. If they granted it, he should be disposed to favour the appointment of a committee to have a conversation with Mr. Bromley; but he could not allow the vote to pass *nemine contradi-*

cente. It must be marked as not being a unanimous vote; and he called on those who were for making no compromise with respect to District Meetings to take that early opportunity of declaring their determination.

The SECRETARY submitted a resolution, embodying the grounds of the refusal of the Conference to hear Mr. Bromley's appeal, which was moved and seconded.

Mr. RULX objected to Mr. Bromley's request as utterly inadmissible. Mr. Bromley, he observed, had, at the last Conference, promised not again to agitate, but, at the very first opportunity, had made haste to break his promise, and, in addition to that breach of faith, had treated the authority of his own district with contempt. All, therefore, agreed that he had no claim in justice or in equity on the indulgence of the Conference. He (Mr. R.) acknowledged that, when, twelve months ago, he met Mr. Bromley at Manchester, he received from intercourse with him an impression strongly favourable to his character as an honest man, but as that impression was contrary to all that he had heard of him before, so it was contradicted by all that he had heard since. He believed, for his part, that with Mr. Bromley, and those who acted with him, there was a design to endeavour by all means in their power to engage the Conference to some act that should impair its own administration, and in this instance to reduce it to a dilemma, by admitting an appeal from Mr. Bromley in direct violation of its own recorded declaration, that appeals were not, in cases like his, to be expected. Some thought that he might come into Conference with an appeal on some points, but not on others. The result would be, that Mr. Bromley would certainly persist in pursuing his own course; and in that case, either all must submit to hear him, and be justly chargeable with weakness, or refuse to hear him, and be certainly accused of tyranny. For the sake, therefore, of our people, properly so called, for whom, not for itself, the Conference exists, and in justice to whom it should not allow itself to be betrayed into even an appearance of connivance with a course like that pursued by Mr. Bromley from first to last, he thought that no notion of expediency should prevail—in the absence of all hope of restoring Mr. Bromley—so far as to overthrow the first principles of order and fidelity without the slightest prospect of any other result than the creation of new material for disquiet.

Dr. BEAUMONT moved, as an amendment, that, although Mr. Bromley had forfeited the right of appeal, he should be heard as a favour,—which Mr. G. B. MACDONALD seconded.

After some discussion, Mr. C. PREST observed, that the proposition to hear Mr. Bromley's appeal, although all acknowledged he had utterly forfeited his right, by treating our inferior courts with contempt, with an understanding that this was to be considered and declared an exemption to our rules, appeared to him both inconsistent and unsafe. He respected the kindness which led some to favor the appeal, but with all kindness, and in this case he had no other feeling, he could not come to the same conclusion. It would not do for the Conference to be firm in theory, firm in writing, firm in declaration, and infirm in action. In times like these, and indeed at all times, their theory and their practice should correspond. A public body like the Conference could not ensure the respect of men unless in important matters of this kind, it blended consistent firmness with kindness. No doubt it might be convenient, it might promote peace of a certain kind, for a few weeks, if Mr. Bromley's appeal were allowed, but the question was, would this method promote and se-

cure eventual, continued, and well-founded peace. He did not altogether admire the prayer, "Give peace in *our time*, O Lord;" he preferred it with an addition which his friend Mr. Fowler once made to it, "and after our time." They might have some difficulties in the discharge of their duty, it was so frequently, but they were not therefore to be deterred from doing it. He trusted and believed that the Conference would proceed as men, and as men of God. They must not follow bad examples, and become the creatures of expediency. There was a godly expediency, but there was a right way of doing a right thing; and never the substitution of any thing wrong in the place of right as being more convenient. There had been too much of that in public political matters, of late years, and he hoped the Conference would never submit to it. He, therefore, confidently, and without any doubt of the propriety of the act, was fully prepared to meet the amendment proposed with his denial, and to vote at once for the original motion.

Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON felt obliged to the president for the opportunity of saying a word. He concurred in the views of Mr. Scott, Mr. Prest, and others. The great point was,—was there not an attempt to oppose the authority of their laws? Could they have peace without law? Dr. Beaumont had said, that mercy in that case would not impair the authority of law: that was contrary to all experience, and to all philosophy. Was the authority of District Meetings a righteous thing? (Yes, yes.) Then he would say—"Maintain it;" otherwise there would be an end of their authority. He called on the Conference to maintain that authority. To hold the theory of the authority of District Meetings, and set it aside in practice, was a fearful thing. He called on the Conference to respect the law; that there might be peace in their time and in all time.

After some further discussion, Mr. MACDONALD observed that it would be impossible to reply to the remarks made, if the motion were then pressed to a division. He hoped those who thought with him were men, and, on all constitutional questions, as sound men as those who were on the other side. He moved the adjournment of the debate.

This was negatived by the general dissent of the Conference.

Mr. P. M'OWAN thought there was no hope of bringing Mr. Bromley to a better mind. Sufficient reference had not been made to the audacious manner in which he had set at nought the authority of the District Meeting, and to his treatment of Mr. Rigg. Mr. Bromley had shewn that he was determined to outrage their discipline; and he hoped they would be of one mind, that there was no solid ground for hearing his appeal.

The PRESIDENT had felt very anxious to afford the fullest opportunity of discussing the question, in consequence of the principles which it involved. The Conference had decided that it would not adjourn the discussion. He must therefore submit the motion and the amendment.

For the amendment, 24 were counted: for the original motion, a forest of hands was held up.

The PRESIDENT said,—The motion is carried by an immense majority. He then added, that in order to conduct the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, it would be well to prepare a suitable document, embodying the reasons for the decision which they had just adopted.

CONFERENCE SUNDAY.

On Sunday, August 4th, sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapels in the London circuits, according to the plan previously drawn up;

and many of them were admirable specimens of pulpit eloquence, and listened to with great interest by large congregations.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5.

The Conference assembled this morning, and appointed a committee on chapel cases.

The ordinary business of the Conference was, as usual, superseded this morning, by a public religious service in the Conference Chapel. The liturgy was read by the Rev. Dr. Hannah. The hymns selected for the occasion were the 277th—"Jesus, the Conqueror, reigns,"—and the 557th—"Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim." The official sermon, which occupied upwards of an hour and a half in delivery, was preached by the Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, Ex-President, from 1 Peter, v. 1—4 :—"The elders which are among you, I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed, feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

At the conclusion of the Ex-President's sermon, the Conference resumed its sitting,

Dr. BUNTING proposed the cordial and affectionate thanks of the Conference to the Ex-President, for his very able and peculiarly appropriate sermon. They had, perhaps, all thought of particular parts, but they had in this admirable discourse a compendium of Scriptural teaching, on the important subject on which he had treated. He would further propose that it be sent to the press, and published without loss of time. If it were good for *them*, it must be equally so for *the people*.

Dr. NEWTON heartily seconded the proposition. He had been delighted and affected in hearing so excellent a discourse. He thanked God, who had given the Connexion such a man. The discourse was calculated, by the Divine blessing, to stir up their own minds, and would, he had no doubt, be of great value to the mass of the people.

Mr. G. MANSDEN having supported the resolution, the PRESIDENT submitted it to the Conference, and it was carried unanimously.

The Ex-PRESIDENT, having acknowledged the vote, observed that he was gratified by this expression of the regard of his brethren. He had endeavoured to bear testimony to the truth, although he would not willingly give offence. The sermon had been prepared amidst onerous duties, but he had done what he could. A careful study of the New Testament had confirmed him in his attachment to Wesleyan Methodism, —to that system of doctrine and discipline which their venerable founder had been led to embrace and bequeath to them. He felt pleasure in consenting to publish the sermon, hoping it might contribute to the general good. He would only add, that he had to apologise for *reading* it. This was not *his* practice; he had only done so in *two* instances, and these were before the Conference. He had been twenty years in the work of the ministry before he had spoken six sentences in open Conference. He apologised for not having been in his place for the last four days, on account of severe indisposition; but his heart was with them, and should be with them to all eternity.

Several committees were then appointed, and the Conference proceeded

with the examination of character. Several cases of minor importance were disposed of.

Somewhat before three o'clock, the Conference broke up for the day, the evening being appropriated to the relation of the religious experience of the young men who were to be received into full connexion.

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

On Monday evening, the Public Examination of the Young Men who are candidates for ordination was commenced in the City-road Chapel, which was crowded on the occasion. The President took the chair precisely at six o'clock. The proceedings of the evening were commenced by singing the 744th hymn, "The Saviour when to heaven he rose," after which the Rev. P. M'OWAN engaged in prayer.

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH called over the names of the young men, as follows:—

James Allen, 3rd.	Benjamin Hellier.	Paul Orchard, jun.
Robert Badcock.	Joseph Hirst.	Evan Pugh.
Thos. S. Bowers, B.A.	Thomas Hulme.	Thomas Rigby.
John Bramwell.	Daniel Jones.	John Shipham.
Thos. H. Brocklehurst.	Joseph Jones.	John Skidmore.
Samuel Coley.	Edward King.	George Smith, 3rd.
Evan Davies.	Samuel Macaulay.	James Sugden.
Frederick F. Edmunds.	Richard Martin.	Charles Willis.
John Evans, 2nd.	Wm. Mearns, M.A.	John W. Wilson.
John D. Geden.	John Moore.	Charles E. Woolmer.
John W. Greeves.	Henry Needle.	

The PRESIDENT then observed, the perpetuation of the Christian ministry in the world was a subject of deep and solemn interest. To Christian men it furnished one of the most striking proofs of its Divine origin. Had it been a human invention—had it originated in the wisdom of man, it could not have been perpetuated to the present period. He considered that the fact of eighteen centuries having elapsed since the institution of the Christian ministry, and that during that period every succeeding generation had been furnished by the Great Head of the Church with a properly qualified ministry—he considered that fact as one of the most striking proofs that could be exhibited in confirmation of the doctrine that the Christian ministry was an ordinance of God, for the benefit and perpetuation of the Church in every age. The perpetuation of the Christian ministry was of deep interest, also, in respect to the rising ministry, who were the hope of the Church, and who would have hereafter to administer the truth in love, under varied circumstances, and in different parts of the world. It was under these views that they felt very solicitous, at their annual Conference, to be satisfied that the candidates for the ministerial office were in the possession of the Divine call, authorizing and fitting them for the ministry. The thirty six individuals who now stood before them were presented to them in order to engage their sympathies and prayers. Those young men had passed through the usual probationary term, namely, four years; and during that period, they had afforded good reason to believe that Conference had judged correctly respecting them when they were received as approved candidates. During the period of this probation, they had conducted themselves with propriety, they had laboured assiduously, they had been a blessing to society, and there was every reason to believe that a wide sphere of use-

fulness was yet before them. Since they came to the Conference, they had undergone a lengthened examination. He was happy to state that the result of that examination had been most satisfactory; and they were presented that evening, on the ground of that examination, as suitable persons to be admitted into the full work and office of the Christian ministry. He trusted what they would hear that evening from those young men would furnish them with evidence that they were "called of God,"—and that they would hereafter be useful ministers, when their fathers in the Connexion, at the present day, had passed to their reward. He would call on his young brethren to favour them with a brief account of their conversion to God, of their present experience, and of their call by the Great Head of the Church to the Christian ministry. On all these points great stress was laid. Whatever literary acquirements a candidate might possess, it was indispensably necessary that his heart should be converted to God, otherwise he had no part in the Christian ministry. They held it of great importance that candidates should be first converted to God, thus giving reason to believe that they were growing in grace. In addition to which, it was indispensable that they should have had a call originally derived from God. He wished them to be satisfied on these points. He would therefore require the young men to speak to these three particulars—their conversion from sin unto holiness, their present religious experience, and the conviction that was on their own minds that they were "moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon them the office and work of the Christian ministry."

The PRESIDENT then called in succession on the following candidates:—Edward Addison, James Allen, 3rd, Thomas S. Bowers, Thomas H. Brocklehurst, Samuel Coley, Frederick F. Edmunds, John D. Geden, John W. Greeves, and John Harrop.

The PRESIDENT said they must now bring this interesting ceremony to a close for that evening, and it would be again resumed to-morrow evening. He hoped that the earnest request to which his young friends had given utterance would be responded to by that congregation. Let them pray that these young men might be baptised anew by the Holy Ghost, and that they might be sent forth with fresh sanctification from above.

The 428th hymn, beginning "Let him to whom we now belong," having been sung, the Rev. CORBETT COOKE engaged in prayer, and the assembly separated.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6.

After the reading of the Minutes by the Sub-Secretary, the reports of several committees were received. They referred chiefly to cases of conduct, and were soon disposed of.

The examination of the young men who had travelled four years, and who were to be received into full Connexion, was entered upon by Dr. HANNAH.

The candidates for ordination, having been subjected to a private examination, were placed before the Conference, and called upon to declare their attachment to Methodist doctrine and discipline.

In the course of this examination, many important remarks on subjects of theology were made by the examiner; and the young men, at the conclusion of the examination, were addressed by the venerable JOSEPH SUTCLIFFE, on matters relating to their personal piety, and the success of their ministry.

The Rev. T. JACKSON moved, and G. MARSDEN seconded, a resolution that the young men now examined be received into full Connexion.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The PRESIDENT, in announcing to the candidates the vote of the Conference, congratulated them on their satisfactory examination—the unanimity and cordiality of the vote—and expressed his earnest desire that they might, by the Divine blessing, prove themselves good ministers of Jesus Christ.

A committee was appointed to take into consideration the present working of the plan which requires circuits, having a certain number of members, to take married instead of single preachers.

Then, for about an hour before the close of the sitting, the examination of character was renewed.

This closed with the Halifax and Bradford district, in which there were three cases of appeal in matters of discipline. One of these came before the Conference in the shape of a complaint brought by J. W. Thomas against G. B. Macdonald for not having exercised sufficiently severe discipline on Mr. Kays, the proprietor of the *Wesleyan Times*.

Another related to the complaint of a member of Society in the Bradford West Circuit, that his ticket had been withheld by Mr. Edward Walker, without a trial by the Leaders' Meeting. The justice of this complaint had been sanctioned by a minor district meeting, which had decided that the ticket should be given to him. And against this decision of the minor district meeting, Mr. Walker now appealed to the Conference.

The advanced hour of the day did not permit these cases to be gone into, and they were deferred.

The Conference broke up at three o'clock.

ADJOURNED EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES.

On Tuesday evening, an adjourned meeting for the "examination and ordination of candidates" for the ministry was held in City-road Chapel.

The proceedings were commenced with singing and prayer.

The PRESIDENT of the Conference then said that he had to present their young brethren to the meeting; and in doing so he would state that, since the previous evening, they had undergone a very lengthened examination in full Conference, and he was happy to inform the meeting that they had afforded entire satisfaction to their fathers in the ministry of their fitness; and in the judgement of the Conference they were duly qualified persons to be set apart for the work of the Christian ministry. They were anxious, however, to give the meeting another opportunity to inform their judgements as to the general fitness of the candidates for the great work; and he would therefore call on as many of them as time would afford opportunity to do, to state to the meeting that evening what circumstances were connected with their conversion; what was the present state of their religious experience, and what were their feelings as to their call to the Christian ministry. And he trusted that, whilst thus engaged, all their hearts would be lifted to the great Head of the Church on behalf of those young servants, to endow them with his own Spirit, and qualify them for the great work to which he trusted they had been called.

The names of the candidates were then called over from the platform, and they addressed the meeting in the following order:—John Bramwell, Benjamin Hellier, Thomas Hulme, Daniel Jones, Samuel Macaulay, William Mearns, Paul Orchard, George Smith, and Joseph Jones.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7.

THE ORDINATION SERVICE.

On Wednesday Morning, this impressive and interesting service took place in Spitalfields Chapel, which was crowded before the commencement of the proceedings. The preachers occupied the body of the chapel, and the young men were in the pews adjacent to the communion table.

The PRESIDENT, (Dr. BEECHAM) at ten o'clock, gave out the hymn beginning—"The Saviour, when to heaven he rose;" after which the Rev. Dr. NEWTON engaged in prayer.

The SECRETARY (Dr. HANNAH) then called over the names of the candidates, and the PRESIDENT read the ordination collect and the following passages of Scripture:—Matt. xxviii. 18, to the end; John x. 1—16; John xxi. 15—17; Acts xx. 17—34; and Eph. iv. 7—13.

The exhortation, beginning, "Ye have heard, brethren, of how much dignity, and of how much importance, this office is, whereunto ye are called," was then addressed to the young men.

The usual questions were then put, and answers taken individually. They related to a divine call;—the sufficiency of the holy Scriptures for salvation;—the cordial belief of Wesleyan doctrines;—the determination to manifest diligence in ministerial and pastoral duties, prayer, reading the Scriptures, and setting godly examples;—the faithful enforcement of Wesleyan discipline; and due obedience to seniors and superiors.

A short space having been, as usual, spent in silent devotion, the PRESIDENT devoutly read the Ordination Prayer.

The candidates then proceeded, in divisions, to the communion rails, where, kneeling, they were solemnly "set apart to the work of the ministry by the imposition of hands." In this ceremony, the PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and EX-PRESIDENT, with the Revs. Dr. BUNTING, Dr. NEWTON, J. SUTOLIFFE, W. ATHERTON, G. MARSDEN, J. SCOTT, S. JACKSON, and JOHN BOWERS, took part. Each candidate was addressed in the usual form—"Mayest thou receive the Holy Ghost," &c.; and to each was delivered a copy of the holy Scriptures, with the charge—"Take thou authority to preach the word of God, and to administer the sacraments in our congregations."

The Sacrament was then administered to the newly-ordained ministers, in which ceremony the President was assisted by the Secretary, the Ex-President, and the Rev. Drs. Bunting and Newton.

The Charge was then delivered by the Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, the Ex-President, from Joshua i. 8 and 9—"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

On Wednesday evening the Conference was chiefly occupied with the examination of character. In the case of appeal by Mr. Savage of Bradford West, against the Rev. Edward Walker,—for withholding his society ticket on account of flagrant breaches of our rules; and of an appeal by Mr. Walker against the judgement of a minor district meeting, which was held on the case; it appeared that that district had resolved that Mr.

Savage, by having identified himself with a confederacy of persons opposed to the peace and prosperity of Methodism, had forfeited his *right* to appeal, yet as a matter of favour it was granted—that Mr. Savage's ticket was withheld on the ground that the *facts* of his agitation were not denied—and that Mr. Walker had laid it down as a principle that a trial was only claimable where the member “denies the allegation of a wilful neglect of discipline or breach of some law of scripture or rule of Methodism, the trial itself being for the proof or disproof thereof.” A majority of the Minor District Meeting judged that, upon the whole, Mr. Savage should have had his request of a trial before his Leaders' Meeting conceded.

Mr. WEST, the chairman, read the minutes of the Minor District Meeting, and informed the Conference that Mr. Walker had not complied with the decision of that meeting, either in giving Mr. Savage his ticket, or in putting him on his trial.

The latter information induced some of the brethren to express an opinion that by refusing to comply with the requirement of the Minor District Meeting, Mr. Walker had (technically speaking) put himself out of court, or rendered it impracticable for the Conference to hear his appeal.

Mr. WALKER stated the grounds of his appeal. He dwelt on the many instances in which Mr. Savage had acted contrary to Methodist law, and gave several reasons for not admitting him to trial. He described some scenes which occurred when Mr. Savage was excluded from his office of local preacher, and which, as depicted, by Mr. Walker, appeared to have been disgraceful.

Mr. WEST replied that the Minor District Meeting was obliged to look upon the matter as involving a case of law. They should not inquire whether Mr. Savage deserved expulsion. What they had to do was to inquire whether he had been expelled legally.

Mr. WILLIAM M. BUNTING thought that Mr. Walker ought first to have complied with the decision of the Minor District Meeting; but having declined to yield such compliance, he (Mr. B.) doubted whether this appeal could with propriety be heard at all. As to another point he could not exactly ascertain whether or not Mr. Savage had actually demanded a trial. (Cries of “yes, yes.”) Well, if it was in evidence that he demanded a trial, it appeared to him that Mr. Walker ought to have complied with the demand.

Mr. JOHN SCOTT, in the commencement of his observations expressed an opinion that too much had been conceded to the people in the year 1797. But as the agreement between the preachers and people had been embodied in the laws of 1797, he (Mr. Scott) would carefully observe those laws. The Conference having conceded the points on which the people then insisted, he had always, *bona fide*, acted upon them. His notion of what those laws required was, that if a man had acted unmethodistically, it was the duty of the superintendent to bring him to trial. He had uniformly thought that the most honourable way in such instances was to go at once to the Leaders' Meeting. If the leaders gave a verdict contrary to the evidence, our refuge was in the Minor Special District Meetings. To act otherwise, and to withhold the individual's ticket on our own responsibility would be to infringe on the rights of the people.

Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON wished to ask Mr. Scott whether he never, in any case, withheld the ticket of a member without a trial at a leaders' meeting?

Mr. SCOTT replied that there were cases where a member had committed what was undeniably a flagrant moral offence, and where the member was not disposed to deny it. And in any such case the member was—as the laws of 1835 expressed it—"quietly dropped."

Dr. BUNTING referred to the difference between the manner of exercising discipline by the modern as compared with the first race of Methodist preachers. Some of these he had well known. They possessed absolute power as to the keeping in or putting out the members. Limits had now been fixed to such power, and those limits ought to be observed. "Do not," said the doctor, "take the law into your own hands."

Mr. MACDONALD read from the minutes of the Minor District Meeting the proof that Mr. Savage had demanded a trial.

Dr. BEAUMONT moved that the report of the Minor District Meeting be now received and adopted. He said it appeared to him that the Minor District Meeting had performed its duty correctly, and he entirely concurred in their decision.

Mr. C. PARR thought that as Mr. Walker had not complied with the decision of the Minor District Meeting, it should first be decided whether the Conference could entertain the appeal at all.

Mr. BARTON spoke to the same effect.

Mr. HASWELL, in seconding the motion made by Dr. Beaumont, said that there were cases in which he should not hesitate to withhold a man's ticket, but then this should always be accompanied with a notice of trial.

The Conference seemed very impatient to have the motion put, for it was now very near nine o'clock.

Dr. BUNTING moved, as an amendment on Dr. Beaumont's motion, "That the Conference, having heard Mr. Walker's appeal, does not think it sufficiently sustained, and it is accordingly disallowed; and the Conference regrets that Mr. Walker did not at once comply with the decision of the Minor District Meeting."

Dr. BEAUMONT then withdrew his motion, being satisfied that Dr. Bunting's motion was at least as forcible, and perhaps stronger than his own.

Dr. Bunting's motion was then put to the Conference and carried *nemine contradicente*.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

In the minutes of the Nottingham and Derby District a record was presented of an appeal against the decision of a Leaders' Meeting at Grantham. The Minor District Meeting reversed that decision. The case was then remitted to the superintendent, who assembled the trustees and leaders and pronounced a sentence of expulsion. The point which was raised in this case was,—Whether the Minor District Meeting ought not to have given directions to the superintendent how to act under such circumstances, instead of leaving him to act on his own responsibility? Upon this point a conversation of some length arose, which was terminated by a declaration from the chair, that in cases where a Leaders' Meeting had brought in a verdict manifestly contrary to the facts of the case, a District Meeting, when applied to, ought to do more than reverse the verdict,—it ought to advise and direct the superintendent how to act, and that direction ought to be recorded on the district minutes.

A young man of the name of Rupert Chawner fell under some severe

censure (partly on the evidence furnished by J. Rattenbury), for having spoken some very free sentiments on the present aspect of affairs. The Conference ordered a letter of admonition to be written to him.

In reference to this case, Mr. WADDY said it was hardly right for Mr. Rattenbury, if he learnt, in journeying about, anything detrimental to the character of a preacher, to come into Conference and mention his name to his disadvantage.

Mr. RATTENBURY said that the name of the brother had been mentioned before he adverted to it. Mr. Waddy's principle was correct, but it did not apply to him; and Mr. Waddy had acknowledged that in applying it to him he laboured under a mistake.

Mr. WADDY: I do no such thing.

Information was presented to the Conference that Mr. George was now at Grantham, associating familiarly with the reformers, and it was feared that his presence among them would encourage and strengthen their hands. This report being treated by many as a mere rumour, it was determined to write to the superintendent of the Grantham circuit to know whether there was any foundation for it.

The York District Minutes brought before the Conference the cases of several individuals who had been deprived of office, in pursuance of a general resolution passed in the Leaders' Meeting of that city, declaring that persons who engaged in certain anti-Methodistical proceedings were no longer worthy of sustaining such offices. . . . A point was raised,—Whether the superintendent was justified in acting upon that general resolution without bringing each individual to trial? . . . The minutes of the District meeting, approving of the course taken by the superintendent, were ultimately confirmed; but it was intimated, that such confirmation did not imply a sanction of everything which had been done and published, in connection with these cases.

On the name of the Rev. WILLIAM HORTON being read, no objection was offered, but he rose and said, that, as certain misrepresentations of his proceedings had appeared in print, he was ready to answer any question respecting his administration during the year.

Mr. FOWLER thereupon wished to know if Mr. Horton had removed a person from society without the benefit of a trial?

Mr. HORTON explained that Mr. Robb had been dropped from the Local Preachers' plan for violating a resolution of the Local Preachers' Meeting; and that when put upon his trial before the Leaders, he threatened the meeting with legal proceedings, and so conducted himself before the Leaders' Meeting as to oblige them to require the withdrawal of his threat, and an apology for his behaviour, both of which he positively refused, and virtually cut *himself off* from fellowship with the Methodist church.

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

The President reminded the Conference that nothing had as yet been decided respecting the communication to be addressed to Mr. Bromley. After consultation with some brethren he deemed it desirable that a committee should be appointed, to examine the district minutes and draw up some record. This was agreed to; and it was also resolved that meanwhile a communication should be made to Mr. Bromley to that effect, and that the final decision in his case should be forwarded to him in due time. . . . Dr. Beaumont inquired whether a communication had been sent to Mr. Bromley from the Conference, informing him of its decision

with regard to his right of appeal. The President answered in the negative, saying that had been left to his friends to tell him. Dr. Beaumont strongly deprecated such an omission, observing that as to his friends telling him, one might put it in one light and another in another, in a most unsatisfactory manner, and that he ought to have been immediately officially inform of his position.

The case of a young man in the Wednesbury circuit, of the name of Baker, was referred to. Last year his name had been dropped for the expression of liberal sentiments, but he had appeared at the Conference to answer the complaints against him, and his name was again placed on trial. An objection was raised against him this year, for having in a sermon uttered a sentiment on the present state of affairs, which had given some offence. Mr. Tarr was asked if he had admonished him. He said he had advised him to be cautious, and proceeded to give a very pleasing and interesting account of Mr. Baker, who he said possessed real talent, as well as sincere and deep piety, and was in every way likely to prove useful and zealous.

MR. ROWLAND'S CASE.

Mr. Rowland's case was then brought on, and he produced a copy of the *Watchman*, from which he proceeded to read an article reflecting on his conduct. Objections were made to such a course from the platform, and he laid the paper aside, and proceeded to his "reasons," which form the ground of offence against him.

Dr. BUNTING thought it was not necessary that they should be read, as the brethren present knew them already.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that there was no certainty that they were familiar to all: he for one could not undertake to say that he recollected each one distinctly. He advocated their being read, which was agreed to.

Each one was then taken up separately, and Mr. Rowland was asked whether he still maintained them, or whether he would retract? He was exceedingly firm and refused to withdraw any, although he allowed that one or two might have been more happily expressed; but as to the substance he could not withdraw them. He stated that at the last Conference, and for some little time after, he had not studied the questions now agitating the connexion; but after that he had considered them carefully; had read all he could on the subject, had thought much of it, and the result was the convictions he had expressed to his brethren at the Minor District Meeting. He made a second attempt to read the article in the *Watchman* already referred to, which Dr. Bunting again interfered to prevent.

Dr. BEAUMONT argued that he had a right to read it; that in the case of any paper where anything prejudicial to his character was published, permission should be granted to read such an article, in order to defend himself; but when found in a paper which they must acknowledge was to a certain extent theirs, and had their sanction and authority, he ought at once to be allowed, without hesitation, to read it.

Dr. BUNTING allowed that what Dr. Beaumont had said was correct, and he agreed with it except as to the time; at some future period he might read it.

Dr. BEAUMONT again expressed himself of opinion that it should be at the earliest opportunity.

At the close of his observations the SECRETARY remarked that, with the exception of a word which Mr. Rowland wished he had substituted

in the first paragraph, and some explanation of the second, he had signified that he entertained the same opinions. Dr. BUNTING then entered into an examination of the several points in the paper, showing the inconclusiveness of some and the anti-Methodistical tendency of others.

It being now dinner time, the Conference adjourned.

At the EVENING SITTING Mr. Rowland's case was again resumed.

Dr. BEAUMONT spoke at great length in reply to Dr. Bunting's observations, and maintained the absence of all evil intention on the part of Mr. Rowland. He thought he had a right to hold the opinions to which he had given expression. They were points concerning which great difference of opinion prevailed. It was useless to pretend to unity where unity did not in reality exist. Mr. Rowland was a senior member of the Minor District Meeting; he was also well acquainted with the county of Norfolk, and if he had arrived at an opinion different from that of his fellow judges, his respect for the other members of the court demanded that he should declare it. Towards the close of his remarks Dr. Beaumont said in reference to some allusions which had been made to the consequences of recent disciplinary proceedings, that no minister was to be told he was not to look to consequences; he was not to look at them indeed so as to be mesmerised or paralyzed, and to lose all moral energy. (Hear, hear.) The end of Christian discipline was good, and the extension of good; and every Christian minister was bound to look at its application for the good of the individual and of the public. As to Mr. Rowland's opinions, they had been superfluously expressed;—it might be honest in him to express them;—but as to the prudence or seemliness of doing so, that was another question.

Mr. PEARCE admitted the adroitness of the exposition of Mr. Rowland's paper by Dr. Beaumont, and proceeded to show that Mr. Rowland had violated some important connexional principles in the course which he had adopted, and that an acknowledgement of his error was indispensable.

Mr. CHARLES COOK, of Paris, exposed some fallacies in Dr. Beaumont's speech; observing particularly that all his arguments tended to the same point, namely, that Conference was not to do justice if dangerous consequences were likely to ensue; and that a man, with great appearance of pleading for justice, might, as in that case, turn all his arguments to show that they were not to do justice.

Mr. TINDALL said that he had the misfortune to be the chairman of that Minor District Meeting. As he was not in the habit of addressing the Conference, he hoped the brethren would show him some indulgence. In his "reasons" Mr. Rowland appeared to assume that our object in appealing to the Minor District Meeting was to expel those two men (Messrs. W. H. Cozens Harly and Joseph Colman). It was no such thing. Our object was "truth and righteousness." He further assumed, and so did Dr. Beaumont, that those two men were such Christian men that Jesus Christ would not have expelled them from his church—that in fact they had done nothing remarkably wrong. He doubted that, and believed that they had done a great deal that was wrong. There appeared something very inconsistent in Mr. Rowland's procedure. He had but a very little while before signed the president's declaration, and therefore an unaccountable change must in a little time have come over his mind.

Mr. ROWLAND said that when he signed the President's declaration he felt that he engaged to observe all the essential principles and regulations of Methodism. As soon after affixing his signature as a great amount of family affliction would admit, he set to work to read over

things that had been written on the subject under dispute. He had done so candidly and attentively, and the result was that he had arrived at the convictions which were expressed in those propositions. But he thought that there was not in those propositions anything but what was perfectly consistent with the essential principles of Wesleyan Methodism.

Mr. S. D. WADDY wished to make one observation about the most striking peculiarity of Dr. Beaumont's speech. He had represented the whole thing as a matter of opinion, merely. "I think so and so, you think differently." Opinions were free. One had as much right to his own view as another. He thought the Conference was prepared to declare its opinion that Mr. Rowland's sentiments were inconsistent with Methodism. If it determined to do so, it would then become a matter of consideration how Mr. Rowland was to be brought to a better mind.

Dr. NEWTON said it appeared to him that there were three things to which the Conference was necessarily brought by the steps which Mr. Rowland had taken — first, to require of Mr. Rowland to make an apology to the Conference for the reflection which he had cast upon its most solemn acts; secondly, that Mr. Rowland should be removed from the circuit where he now was; and thirdly, that he be not entrusted with the care of a circuit until he was prepared to show to the Conference that he holds other sentiments than those here expressed.

Mr. SCOTT thought the Conference would not do any justice to themselves unless they expressed their utter disapprobation of the sentiments promulgated by Mr. Rowland. He agreed with Dr. Beaumont that Mr. Rowland had a right to hold his sentiments; but, then, he had not a right to publish them. And while he was known to hold them, he was not fit to be entrusted with the care of a circuit.

Mr. JOHN M'OWAN said that the sentiments of Mr. Rowland were deadly poison, and that nothing ought to satisfy the Conference but a solemn pledge on the part of Mr. Rowland not to repeat them.

Dr. BUNTING suggested that not only should the three kinds of punishment suggested by Dr. Newton be inflicted on Mr. Rowland, but that, in addition, he should be declared to be inadmissible to be a member of any minor district meeting for a certain space of time.

To this the Conference signified its assent.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING was extremely sorry to say anything which might aggravate Mr. Rowland's case. Yet he must say that a serious aggravation of Mr. Rowland's offence was, that in the character of a judge it was that he (Mr. Rowland) had taken an opportunity to promulge these objectionable sentiments. It also appeared to have been a premeditated act; for it was in evidence that he had already got those sentiments written, and in his pocket, before he went to deliver judgement.

Mr. SAMUEL D. WADDY (through the medium of the secretary) then moved the following resolutions:—

1. "That the principles advanced in the nine reasons presented by Mr. Rowland to the minor district meeting, and to which he still adheres, are utterly inconsistent with the constitutional principles of Wesleyan Methodism.

2. "That Mr. Rowland is bound and required to make an apology to this Conference for the publication of sentiments so objectionable.

3. "That he be removed from the Yarmouth circuit, and also from the Norwich circuit.

4. "That he be not entrusted with the charge of a circuit until he has

given assurance to the Conference that his views have undergone a change.

5. "That he be solemnly admonished from the chair of the Conference.

6. "That for two years he be deemed ineligible to be elected a member of any minor district meeting."

The resolution, having been moved and seconded, was unanimously adopted, with the exception of two votes.

The **PRESIDENT** then inquired whether he would take a little time for consideration, the Conference wishing to show him every indulgence it could, consistently with the maintenance of right principles?

Mr. ROWLAND replied that he wished for no postponement.

Dr. BUNTING, **Mr. FOWLER**, **Mr. RATTENBURY**, and others, were of opinion that though **Mr. Rowland** did not ask for postponement he needed it; and it was agreed that time should be given, and that some senior members of the Conference should converse with him.

CHAPEL CASES.

A committee was, as usual, appointed to consider cases referred to the Conference respecting chapel trusts, and to offer such advice to parties concerned as might be deemed necessary.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9.

On the opening of the Conference, the **PRESIDENT** read the following communication:—

"**Mr. Lawton** begs to inform the President of the Conference that last night, about half-past ten o'clock, in his presence, the **Rev. John Chettle** departed this life. The immediate cause of death was a severe bilious attack, accompanied with vomiting and constipation. He was seventy-three years of age, and has been in the ministry fifty years. **Mr. Chettle** was in the Conference on Monday last."

The characters of several deceased ministers were then submitted to the Conference for approval. That of the **Rev. Richard Beece**, after a conversation had taken place upon it, was recommended for the insertion of some particulars which it was thought, in justice to the memory of that venerable man, ought to be noticed.

A communication was also received from the **Rev. Jas. Dixon**, stating that he had been taken very ill during the night, and would not be able to attend the sitting that forenoon, but he hoped to be able to attend in the evening.

EXAMINATION OF CHARACTER.

The Conference then proceeded to the consideration of character, and the London district, which had been deferred, was commenced.

On **Mr. Fowler's** name being called over,

Mr. P. HOBSON begged to ask how it came to pass that **Mr. Fowler** had devolved the exercise of discipline on one of his colleagues,

A satisfactory explanation was given, on the ground of **Mr. Fowler's** infirm health.

On **Dr. ALDER's** name occurring, he entered into a defence of himself against the imputations which had been cast upon his character.

Dr. BUNTING said that he had fully investigated all those charges which related to the voyage to Canada, and **Dr. Alder's** conduct while there; and if there was truth in man, he declared that those charges were totally false.

The Rev. JOSEPH HARGREAVES stated that the young man who had brought forward, in a place of worship, a string of charges in the shape of a series of accusations against Dr. Alder had expressed regret for what he had done.

Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON said that he had received a letter from Mr. Joseph Wood, of Bristol, complaining of an article in a number of the *Vindicator*.

Mr. WOOD replied, and defended himself from the charge of undue laxity, particularly by stating that none of the offices in his circuit had been filled up by reformers. As to the circuit debt referred to by Mr. J., that had existed for long.

Mr. S. JACKSON took his statements from the *Wesleyan Times*.

Mr. WOOD did not read that paper.

Mr. S. JACKSON felt his duty was to do so.

Dr. BEAUMONT wondered that that paper, so daringly called a lying paper, could, by any person so calling it, be made the groundwork of a charge against a brother.

DR. BEAUMONT'S CASE.

On Dr. Beaumont's name being called over,

The Ex PRESIDENT said there was in the district minutes an entry having reference to Dr. Beaumont.

It was read, and it was found to relate to the case of Mr. Grosjean.

Dr. BEAUMONT: I must inform the Conference first what I have done. I stated to the district meeting that I did not believe that Mr. Grosjean had related an absolute falsehood. I further stated my doubts as to whether Mr. Grosjean had gone into other circuits to carry disturbance into them. I thought that one of my colleagues (Mr. Strachan) ought to bring that accusation against Mr. Grosjean if it was to be preferred against him. Dr. Beaumont having here related the course of events preceding and accompanying Mr. Grosjean's trial, said,—When Mr. Strachan felt some delicacy at the thought of becoming the personal accuser, I endeavoured to relieve him from the difficulty by furnishing him with the charges. But at length Mr. Strachan absolutely declined to have anything to do with the matter. I think I had a right to look to my colleague for his assistance in the case. (No, no.) My other colleague (Mr. Clegg) then expressed his willingness to help me. But he met with considerable difficulty. The time of trial arrived. No one brought any accusation against Mr. Grosjean. I had had a private interview with him, and the district meeting required me to take prompt and prudent measures to put him on his trial. I did so. No one, on that trial, would allege anything against him. I found myself obliged, afterwards, to put Mr. Grosjean on his trial before the Local Preachers' Meeting, and that meeting was adjourned. Mr. Grosjean was subsequently suspended as a local preacher, and remains to this time suspended.

The Ex-PRESIDENT observed, it was far from his wish to utter words which would cause pain, or to pry into the private sentiments of any Methodist preacher; but, when any preacher expressed his sentiments in a public meeting, he thought it his duty to take some notice of them. At the Financial District Meeting, last September, he had counselled his brethren to exercise patience and forbearance towards those individuals who had been unhappily drawn into the agitation which had been commenced in the society, but to keep their eyes on leading agitators, and

bring them to discipline. As soon as he had finished, Dr. Beaumont rose and said, that he earnestly deprecated the acceptance on the part of the brethren of such advice. He proceeded to express, in effect, the old sentiment,—“The voice of the people is the voice of God.” He said, “God is speaking to us, not only by the cholera, but by the voice of the people.” He (the Ex-President) had thought it his duty to rebuke Dr. Beaumont for that sentiment. Did Moses consult the voice of the people when they were dancing before the golden calf? Did John Wesley consult the voice of the Staffordshire mobs when they tried to prevent his preaching the gospel? Did the apostle Paul consult the men of Ephesus when they cried—“Great is Diana of the Ephesians?” They must take care of their own principles, and not permit them to be overruled by the false maxim on which he had commented.

Dr. BEAUMONT—I never uttered such a remark, Mr. President, as Mr. Jackson has imputed to me. I said, indeed, that the Almighty had been speaking to us lately by famine and by cholera; and I thought he then was speaking by our people. I was astonished at the ability displayed by them. I said nothing of riots in Staffordshire, nor heathen worshippers of Diana at Ephesus; but I did speak of the voice of God’s people, your people, my people; and I insisted that whether, in the event we should yield to it or not, yet it was our bounden and solemn duty at least to hear it.

Mr. STRACHAN, being called for, entered into a lengthened detail of the circumstances which had occurred subsequently to the district meeting, and of the steps which he had taken, at the request of his superintendent, to obtain evidence on the case. He had not felt himself called upon to act as the only accuser of Mr. Grosjean. From the commencement to the close of the business, he had regarded himself as one of the four accusers. There were four ministers in the circuit, all sustaining the pastoral office, and all equally bound to maintain discipline. He had not felt it prudent to take the entire responsibility of the act devolved by the district meeting on his superintendent, but had been fully ready to go with his superintendent and colleagues in order to carry out the minute of the district meeting. It had been said, from the course he had pursued, that his attachment to their economy must have been weakened; but he felt no disloyalty towards it, or unwillingness to risk everything that was dear to him in support of a just discipline.

Some inquiries were then addressed by different ministers to Mr. Strachan, with a view to elicit the reasons which had induced him to give up the case. Mr. Strachan’s answers were, in substance, that he understood he was to go into the case with the entire sanction of his superintendent, and to be sustained by all his colleagues; that he had done all which he had promised to do, which was to prepare the case and submit it to his colleagues—that he then expected their support; but that he might have done wrong in giving the case up at the time he did. He considered the conduct of the accused party as dishonourable as it could be; but he had felt that he had been called to occupy an isolated position, and to that he had objected from the commencement. When associated in a circuit with other ministers, he expected them also to do their duty.

Mr. CLEGG was called to state the part which he had taken; but his statement did not materially affect the circumstances of the case.

Mr. ARTHUR gave a narrative of the chief points of the case, from the date of the District Meeting. From his account it appeared that at the

first Ministers' Meeting of the district Dr. Beaumont assigned as his reason for declining to undertake the case himself, his objection to combine in his own person the offices of accuser and judge; that thereupon Mr. Strachan consented to bring the charges, but learning shortly afterwards, during Dr. Beaumont's absence in Scotland, from Mr. Grosjean, that the doctor had stated to him his own disbelief of the charges, and that Mr. Strachan was independently to bring them forward, he then determined to throw up the case; and after Dr. Beaumont's return from the north the affair was fresh taken into consideration in the ministers' meeting, when Dr. Beaumont expressed himself so strongly on the merits of the case, and against the proceedings which had been instituted by the district meeting, that he (Mr. A.) felt it to be impossible for himself or either of the doctor's colleagues, in the face of such sentiments on their superintendent's part, to undertake it with any hope of good result; and he accordingly relieved himself of responsibility by telling his superintendent frankly what he thought of the case, that he felt it to be a case for discipline, but that under the circumstances he must leave the whole responsibility of the matter with him, on whom, before God and man, it rested; and finally that at the meeting before which Mr. Grosjean should have been tried, after the vote of exculpation and confidence had been put by the superintendent and passed by the meeting, he (Mr. Arthur) declared to his superintendent and to Mr. Grosjean, openly and explicitly, that he had not opposed the vote, only because he knew it would be useless, but that he thought such a vote unconstitutional and wrong, and wished it to be understood that he had taken no part in it. He regretted, however, as to this point, that he had not protested before the vote was taken.

From other inquiries it appeared that Dr. Beaumont had put a resolution to the Leaders' Meeting, whether a reporter should be admitted to take notes of the proceedings. This course was strongly objected to by several members of the Conference as unconstitutional. In the course of these inquiries it further appeared that Dr. Beaumont had said in the Leaders' Meeting that he had "taken counsel" as to the course he should pursue; but though the expression he had used was one which had been understood at the time to mean legal advice, yet it was reconcileable with the idea that he had taken advice of some eminent character, and he now disclaimed having taken any legal advice. He also added that he sought no evasion of the directions of the District Meeting, and intended none. . . . In answer to other inquiries it was admitted that he had uttered language to the effect that he was not obliged to beat bushes, sweep streets, &c., in quest of evidence; and that those who had charges to bring, and had obliged him to proceed with the case, might do so, but he would not. It also appeared that he had employed terms of eulogy in reference to the accused party, and had permitted reflections to be cast on some eminent individuals in the connexion.

The statements of several members of the Conference showed that ample evidence had been supplied to Mr. Strachan in support of some of the principal charges against the accused, which evidence had remained in his hands, and had not even been laid before the Superintendent when Mr. Strachan determined not to appear as sole accuser.

After some other inquiries,

Mr. FOWLER observed, if he understood the constitution of Methodism, Dr. Beaumont's mode of proceeding in bringing the offender before the local preachers' meeting was a flagrant violation of that constitution. He

had never understood that a local preachers' meeting was a court of inquiry, except whether A. B. was fit to be, or fit to be continued, a local preacher. All questions affecting character should be taken to the leaders' meeting. No local preacher should be removed from office without a verdict being given against him; but that verdict would be best obtained at a leaders' meeting. However, he thought they had pretty nearly got to the merits of the case, and he should like to know the practical application.

The PRESIDENT wished to ascertain whether the Conference had obtained all the information it desired on the case, and, if so, what course it wished to take? Did Dr. Beaumont wish to address the Conference?

Mr. RIGG, after so lengthened a conversation, thought the Conference should come to some conclusion. There ought to be some uniformity in the administration of discipline.

Dr. BUNTING observed the Conference had been hearing evidence on the case. Would they now throw the subject open for suggestion as to the best course to be pursued, at the close of which some practical conclusion might be agreed upon. He thought that Dr. Beaumont ought now to be heard.

Dr. BEAUMONT complained that he had received no charge, and no notice of charge, but had been told that it was merely a Conference inquiry, and then that there was to be a judgement upon it.

The PRESIDENT observed the question had come before the Conference under the reading of the minutes of the district meeting; and the subject was in order, without formal notice, to consider whether Dr. Beaumont had done his duty.

Mr. SCOTT added—Or to consider whether the London district meeting had been unfairly treated.

Dr. BEAUMONT was quite aware that, had there been a formal charge and trial, an individual thus dealt with, after answering the questions proposed to him, must leave himself to the judgement of the Conference; but on an inquiry like the present, and with the multitude of interrogatories addressed to him, if the Conference proceeded to consider any resolution, he was entitled to be heard upon it. He claimed to be so heard at a fitting time, but on one or two matters he would speak now. He then observed that he had from the first taken upon himself the responsibility of sustaining the charges. As to being both accuser and judge, his objection to that had arisen solely because, as he had said, he did not believe the things alleged against the person accused. He had been both accuser and judge in some cases, when he had believed the charge, and thought it right to be so. With respect to allowing a reporter to be present at the meeting, he in the first instance disapproved of it; but he was told that Mr. Scott had allowed one in a similar case. Supposing that statement to be true, he gave way. "In that (said the Doctor) I think I was wrong." (Hear, hear.) He then referred to the difficulties of his position in having an adverse leaders' meeting, and observed that if his course had not been agreeable to the Conference he was sorry for it. (Hear, hear.) But after all that he had heard said, and after his own revision of the affair, with the exception of having allowed a reporter to be present who was not a member of the meeting,—he did not see that he could have acted otherwise.

After some further conversation, the Conference adjourned till the evening.

Evening Sitting. Dr. Beaumont's Case continued.

On the question of character being resumed, some other names were read, whereupon

DR. BEAUMONT said he wished to know whether there was to be any decision on his case. Had he not been interrogated upon nearly one hundred questions? Was the matter to pass away as it was? He complained of it. It was due to their sense of honour, due to their character, due to Christianity, due to everything that was sacred, either that he should be at once exempted from complaint, or that some decision should be pronounced. He was an elder and a father in the Connexion, and had served it for forty years.

MR. J. SCOTT—The ministers stationed in the London district had just cause to complain. Superintendents ought not to make it necessary for the district meeting to interfere with them for the maintenance of discipline. Other superintendents had been placed in difficult circumstances, but had not neglected their duty. For example, the superintendent of the first London circuit had not. The superintendent of the third circuit had been placed in the greatest perplexity, but still he had done his duty. This was not the case with Dr. Beaumont. No man in London, or anywhere else, had been a more flagrant transgressor than Mr. Grosjean in trampling under foot all rule and order. He had visited Woolwich, Birmingham, Exeter, and Manchester. His conduct was before the world. He had been regularly published as one of the secretaries of the London "Corresponding Committee,"—a confederation formed to revolutionize Methodism. He (Mr. S.) was not prepared to say, that, with the influence which it might be supposed Dr. Beaumont had with his circuit—had he shown the Leaders' meeting that Mr. Grosjean's conduct was so flagrantly at variance with the law of Christ, and the rules of Methodism—he could not have obtained a proper verdict, when the offences were so notorious that no man could deny them. Then Dr. Beaumont was prepared with his expedient,—he could suspend the man on his own responsibility, if the verdict was notoriously against the fact. He could not plead that he was wanting in resources to sustain discipline, in their monthly ministers' meetings. All were in favour of reasonable forbearance—all approved of what Dr. Beaumont had done when he had expostulated with Mr. Grosjean. But all were of opinion, that when this failed, he should have proceeded to regular trial, and brought him to submit to their acknowledged discipline, or dismissed him. When Dr. Beaumont would not interfere, or did not, the district meeting had no alternative but to call upon Dr. Beaumont to deal with the offender. No one in the district supposed that the resolution was an indictment—it was not in that form,—or that it took the matter out of the hands of the superintendent of the circuit. The district thought it sufficient, in general terms, to state their complaint, and to commit the case to the local authority. What he (Mr. Scott) next complained of was, the subsequent treatment of the district meeting. If it had been intended to burlesque their proceedings, and bring discredit and contempt upon their authority, a better plan could not have been devised. First, there was the apparently frank mode of setting to work. Then, Dr. Beaumont himself declined the responsibility; devolved it on Mr. Strachan; gave notice to Mr. Grosjean, but told him that he (Dr. Beaumont) had nothing against him. Mr. Strachan immediately informed Dr. Beaumont that he would not alone take the responsibility of preferring the charge. It appeared that Dr.

Beaumont had, in the letter, admitted the authority of the district meeting, yet, in fact, as well as in conversation, he had repudiated that authority. In the leaders' meeting, Dr. Beaumont said, "These are not my charges, they are brought by the district, and I have no alternative but to prefer them." He had nothing against Mr. Grosjean. Had Dr. Beaumont told the district meeting that he refused to deal with the case, the matter would have been understood; but he accepted the direction of the district—preferred a charge—brought forward not even the evidence of which his colleague was in possession,—and then from the chair put a motion of eulogy on Mr. Grosjean, and Mr. Grosjean came off with applause. He (Mr. Scott) did not think this was the way the Methodist discipline should be treated by men who had the care of circuits. He considered the Conference was bound to say, when superintendents neglected their duty, that they had so neglected it, and that they were, on that account, responsible. As to Dr. Beaumont suspending Mr. Grosjean from his office of local preacher, though there were times when the *habeas corpus* might, perhaps, in some cases, be suspended; yet he (Mr. Scott) would not have dealt with the case just in that manner. Mr. Scott complained that Dr. Beaumont had set up his own judgement against his brethren, in their monthly meeting, and in the district meeting, and now against the Conference, for Dr. Beaumont said he had done right—except as to allowing a reporter to be present. He (Mr. Scott) thought differently, and with his convictions he could not help expressing his views to the Conference.

At the close of Mr. Scott's speech,

Dr. BEAUMONT said Mr. Scott had spoken in a manner which nothing could justify or excuse.

Mr. BARTON rose to order. Dr. Beaumont had already spoken, and he ought not to address the Conference after each speaker.

Mr. PREST: The point of order was,—should Dr. Beaumont answer each speech, or at the end of the discussion make a general reply? Dr. Beaumont might choose one or the other, but he for one objected to his doing both.

The PRESIDENT was surprised to hear Dr. Beaumont complain of the course now pursued. Had they not adjourned with the understanding that the case was to be resumed? What could Dr. Beaumont complain of? Some one must begin to remark upon the case.

Dr. BEAUMONT had a deep sense of the great fairness of the chair; but Mr. Scott had introduced things which were not correct, and he must answer them. If the Conference ruled that he should answer at the close of the inquiry, he bowed to its decision.

Mr. I. KEELING had paid attention to the whole of the statements made, and to the answers given at the morning sitting. At the close of that sitting he had put down what appeared to his own mind the things arrived at by the investigation. He had put them in a form which he begged to read and propose. He then read and proposed for adoption a series of resolutions, in substance as follows:—

"1. That the Conference learns with regret that the decisions of the London District Meeting, which were so necessary for the maintenance of our discipline, have not been carried into effect.

"2. From the evidence now received, it appears in particular, that Dr. Beaumont so exaggerated the difference of judgement between himself and the other brethren on one part of the case, as to make this difference

the ostensible reason for acting in the case with reluctance, and by this means ensure the failure of the attempt to carry out our discipline.

"3. That in bringing Mr. Grosjean to trial before a local preachers' meeting, for matters which belong to a leaders' meeting, Dr. Beaumont failed in his duty as a superintendent.

"4. That his manner of dealing with the offence, both in the weekly ministers' meeting and at the Leaders' Meeting, appears to have been such as to render the duty of his colleagues increasingly embarrassing.

"5. That notwithstanding this, Mr. Strachan, though placed in this embarrassing condition, was not justified in throwing up the case, and suffering it to go to the Leaders' Meeting, without such sustaining evidence as was in his possession.

"6. On the whole the Conference resolves—

"1. That as the failure of the due application of discipline is to be attributed mainly to the want of consistency in persevering endeavours on the part of the superintendent to fulfil his duty, such disregard of the authority of the District Meeting, and of the momentous interests at stake, merits the censure of the Conference.

"2. That the Conference regrets that Mr. Strachan has suffered himself to be so influenced by popular clamour as to neglect his duty."

Mr. NAYLOR seconded the proposition, showing that he was induced to do so from a conviction that if any odium or responsibility attached unto them it was his duty, as a senior minister, to take his share; he did so also from a deep persuasion that the members of the London District Meeting had cause to contend that it was the imperious duty of the Conference to maintain the authority and dignity of district decisions. He had been pleased to hear some of the explanations given by Dr. Beaumont, and the concessions he had made, and hoped that if he had to pass through the same again he would act very differently; still he could not but think that Dr. Beaumont was highly blameable in setting up his own judgement in opposition to the opinion of the District Meeting, and in pronouncing the charges to be untrue. One of them, in reference to Mr. Grosjean going to other circuits to hold reform meetings, had previously been so far confirmed that he had obtained a resolution at the Local Preachers' Meeting condemnatory of that conduct. But it was evident that the doctor had gone to the duty enjoined with great reluctance, and that if such neglect of district directions were allowed to pass by unproved, they would soon as a body have such a disruption among themselves, that Methodism would be scattered to the four winds of the earth. In reference to Mr. Strachan, he viewed his conduct as highly objectionable. The evidence he had obtained, which might have been increased, ought to have been brought forward, and if it had failed to obtain a conviction, they might have fallen back on the District Meeting. He felt it his duty to remark on the unmanly way in which he had met the questions proposed to him—talking about them, and all around them, instead of giving distinct, pointed, and direct answers to them. Such conduct was not known in the Conference when he was first introduced into it, but of late had been too familiar among them, and in his opinion was very reprehensible. In conclusion, he observed that he considered that the instructions of the District Meeting had been decidedly evaded rather than fulfilled.

Mr. MACDONALD had listened with great interest to the proceedings of the day, and expressed his warm approbation of the manner in which the

president had conducted the proceedings. Greater impartiality he had never witnessed. He could have wished that Mr. Keeling had put his motion in the form of a series of distinct propositions, to be taken separately. As a member of that body he felt bound to submit to its decision on all questions not affecting his conscience; and he believed that any affecting his conscience would not be adopted. These decisions he felt imperatively bound to carry out, as though they were originally and primarily his own. He did not see how they could otherwise hold together as a connexion. Nothing had been more impressed on his own mind during the proceedings of the Conference than the necessity of supporting the district courts. He lamented that Dr. Beaumont had not fully carried out the resolution of the district meeting. If Mr. Keeling's motion could be broken up into parts, to be considered separately, he thought it would conduce to unanimity.

Dr. BEAUMONT wished to have a copy of the resolutions for consideration.

Dr. BUNTING inquired whether there was any objection to their being read and considered clause by clause? He decidedly approved of that course.

The clauses were then read and considered *seriatim*.

The first and second were agreed to without observation.

On the third clause being read,

Mr. MACDONALD said he agreed altogether with the views which some had taken, that in matters affecting morality and membership, an offender should be summoned before the Leaders' Meeting; but he thought that Dr. Beaumont should have the benefit of his statement respecting the circumstances under which he had brought the case before a Local Preachers' Meeting.

The clause was then agreed to.

The fourth and fifth clauses were also agreed to without discussion.

On the sixth clause being read, containing the judgement of the Conference,

Dr. DIXON observed, that having been prevented by indisposition from attending the Conference in the morning, he had perhaps no right to speak on the general question before them. He had not heard the statements and evidence, and, therefore, considered that it would be improper for him to pronounce on the facts of the case. But he would ask the Conference to consider, whether it might not be satisfied with something less than censure? He was well aware of the general feeling which prevailed; but let them deal as gently with one another as truth and duty would allow. He knew that Dr. Beaumont had had a difficult post in the Hinde-street circuit, and he would have the Conference to look at his difficulties. He, for one, should regret if they expressed a censure upon him. Would not a similar decision to that which had been passed in the case of his friend Mr. Edward Walker meet the case? (No, no.) Moreover, let him say there was such a thing in Christianity as grace—mercy—love. He, for one, stood much in need of grace and mercy. (Hear, hear.) "Now don't," said the Doctor, "turn a serious reflection to another purpose." He repeated, he stood in need of a great deal of mercy from them, and from One higher than they. If he erred at all, he wished to err on the side of compassion and mercy. He should like them to say, that they regretted, deplored, that Dr. Beaumont did not pursue a different course, and be satisfied with that. He would have them to reflect on the consequence of passing a censure on Dr. Beaumont. He was

not prepared to fix the stigma or censure of that great body upon the Doctor. "Remember," said he, "your approval is a great grace, and your censure is a great misfortune?"

Mr. RULK had listened with fixed interest to every sentence uttered on that painful subject. His mind was full of the feeling that Dr. Beaumont had not done justice to Methodism, and that Mr. Strachan had not proceeded in a straightforward manner. He thought the language of censure was merited; but, notwithstanding the delinquency—the Methodistical delinquency,—he thought that an expression of the opinion of the Conference would be more weighty than a judgement. They could afford to be content with an expression of opinion, without a positive censure. He would ask the Conference, instead of pronouncing a censure to deliver its judgement, and with that to be satisfied.

Mr. S. D. WADDY said, he would dismiss from his mind all personal feeling, in treating of the points involved in this grave question. I have, (he said,) first, to object, in the strongest possible terms, to a mode of expression adopted by the other side, which is calculated to produce the impression, that they alone are properly impressed with the importance of the consequences of this decision, and that we do not, at least, equally feel the value and deplore the loss of immortal souls. It is because we believe that this whole system of agitation is destructive of piety,—hindering the progress of the work of God, and hurrying souls to perdition, that we feel it must at all events be stopped, and peace must be restored to our troubled societies. I also object (he continued) to a mode of expression which has been extensively used by the agitators, and sanctioned and adopted by Dr. Beaumont,—that he objected to be both accuser and judge. The attempt to force us to conform our meetings for discipline to the arrangements and forms of civil and criminal courts, is levelled at the integrity of our pastoral office. The superintendent should not allow any one to be the accuser, as he is called: he should himself prefer the charge, and call upon the complaining parties to give their testimony. I hope we shall never give up our scriptural and fatherly authority, as pastors in the church of Christ, for the ineffective mimicry of a secular tribunal. I am surprised that Dr. Beaumont should make his non-belief of the charge against the person accused, a reason why he could not personally preside at his trial. I have always been taught to believe, that the judge was to consider the prisoner innocent, until he found him guilty,—and that a conviction of his guilt, which implies a prejudging of his case, was a disqualification for the office of judge. I object also, very strongly, to the opinion of Dr. Beaumont, that he has a right to devolve upon his colleagues the responsibility and work belonging exclusively to himself. In this instance he had devolved this duty first on a colleague somewhat his junior, and then on a young man of eleven years' standing. This was unfair to his colleagues, and a notorious disregard of the authority of the district meeting, which must have power to direct and regulate the conduct of superintendents in circumstances of difficulty,—or our connexional existence will be destroyed. There can be no question as to the impropriety of submitting to a Local Preachers' meeting the business which fairly belonged to the Leaders' meeting. Dr. Beaumont has made two statements, which I find it utterly impossible to reconcile. He says that he did not believe the person in question guilty, and yet goes and tells him that if he repeated his conduct he must bring him to trial. It is also evident to me, that Dr. Beaumont thinks more of his own personal honour than of that of the connexion;

for your laws and discipline may be trampled under foot with impunity, but the moment he himself is exposed to personal insult, the offender is suspended from his office in the most arbitrary manner, without even the form of trial. As to Mr. Strachan, it is evident, from his own remarks, that his reason for abandoning the case was, fear of his reputation among the disaffected. We have heard of mercy, but we also owe mercy to our distracted societies—to families divided by their wretched agitations, and to men who have lost their health, and some their reason and their lives, under the anxiety and pressure of these divisive proceedings. I am, therefore, deliberately of opinion, that we ought not to do less than pass the resolution of censure, and I shall vote for the motion as it stands.

Mr. FOWLER said he agreed with the preceding speaker in condemnation of the course pursued by Dr. Beaumont, but he must confess he did not agree in all the findings. He had a recollection that Dr. Beaumont did not devolve all the case on Mr. Strachan (Cries of "Yes, yes.") Well Mr. Strachan had engaged to undertake it. He (Mr. F.) thought that the state of the circuit when Dr. Beaumont entered it should not be forgotten. He (Dr. B.) had had difficult duties to perform. He (Mr. F.) thought Dr. Beaumont ought to have attended to them more promptly, but that the censure of that Conference should be affixed to him was too much. If a man did that which appeared equivocal, let him offer a suitable explanation, and let that be accepted. He (Mr. F.) concurred with those who thought that to express disapprobation of Dr. Beaumont's judgement, without passing the censure of the Conference upon him, would best meet his case.

Mr. ARTHUR felt some delicacy in speaking on the subject before the Conference. He had had a great weight upon his mind as to the state of things in the Hinde-street circuit. Whatever attached to a circumstance of that kind, it ought to be thrown into the scale in favour of his Superintendent, Dr. Beaumont. As to Mr. Strachan, he was not surprised that he had answered in the way he did; but he (Mr. A.) believed that it was not Mr. Strachan's intention to blink the inquiry. He hoped the Conference would come to the mildest conclusion it could.

Mr. J. M'OWAN confirmed what Mr. Arthur had said respecting Mr. Strachan's general manner of answering inquiries, but observed that if Mr. Strachan had been permitted to bring out the statements which he had offered to read, it would include the evidence he had received in the case.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING said he should be glad if he could induce the Conference to separate the resolutions into two parts, so as to include their view of the facts of the case, apart from their judgement of the principle involved in it. He fully disapproved of the course which Dr. Beaumont had pursued; yet he wished the Conference to take into account some mitigating circumstances before it expressed its judgement. In the first place, before the district meeting was held, Dr. Beaumont had taken some private steps with the party offending, and subsequently had deposed him from the office of local preacher. He (Mr. Bunting) moreover believed that if Dr. Beaumont were treated kindly, the Conference might calculate on his doing his duty. He had understood that Dr. Beaumont had thrown discredit upon the district meeting. If so, he (Mr. Bunting) was prepared to concur in refusing him the superintendency of a circuit; but Dr. Beaumont had declared that he had not. (Dr. Beaumont: "No, no.") He believed Dr. Beaumont, and so did the generous men on the platform. He thought that Dr. Beaumont's conduct deserved the disap-

probation of the Conference, but, taking the mitigating circumstances into account, not its censure.

Mr. PÆSTER said that he had, as in duty and in inclination obliged, given his best, most patient, and candid attention to the important subject now before the Conference. He had heard with no surprise or disapprobation the plea of mercy urged, and he was fully disposed to protect that plea, but he was not, nor could he be, either in fairness or in the discharge of the duty which he owed to the Methodist connexion, disposed to take or act upon that plea alone. On the contrary, he sympathised both in judgement and in feeling with the remarks which had been made, evidently with the approbation of the Conference, as he was right glad to observe, touching the mercy due to their people on the one hand, and the claims of justice on the other. (Hear.) In his opinion they were bound, in imitation of and imbued with the sacred principles of the gospel, to combine justice and mercy together, not to sacrifice the claims of the one to those of the other, but to combine both in their opinions and in their actions, and especially in a solemn judicial deliverance like the one now to be arrived at. (Hear.) If the case were an isolated one, that is if the sympathies developed in it had never appeared before in the subject of the present investigation, then perhaps the case might be somewhat mitigated, but it could not be denied that sympathies like those now revealed were not now for the first time made known. In 1834, and since on not a few occasions, in his (Mr. Pæster's) judgement, Dr. Beaumont had so acted or so refused to act, that those who had opposed the constitutional administration of their affairs had regarded him as friendly to their objects, and right or wrong had claimed him as their friend. Such was the fact, on which he should not further comment. He well remembered the agitation of 1835; he had been in the midst of it, and was fully convinced that *in comparison with that*, the present agitation was unimportant, however painful it might be. (Hear.) Now he wished respectfully to remind many of his honoured fathers and brethren, and to inform others, that in the steady, firm, and uncompromising adherence which many,—which most,—then manifested to principles which were declared by the courts of law and by the Conference to be correct, though not popular, they lost friends and gained enemies; and some of them, whose memory he venerated and whose example he for one should follow, had lost both health and life. (Hear.) Now he wanted to know whether these venerable, whether these departed, these self-sacrificing men, had done right? Did the Conference say that they had done right? (Yea.) Very well! Then he wished further to know whether those who since then and who now walked by the same rule and minded the same thing, had done and were doing right? Then were they prepared to say that those who had not, did not so act, were doing right? Certainly not! If then they praised the one should they not blame the other? (Hear.) Unquestionably they should, unless we were disposed to make the pastoral rule and government of the Conference a shadow. And if they in their judgement blamed, why should they hesitate to express that blame. Blame was due in this case; censure was demanded. Let it be done as kindly, as mildly as they pleased, but let it be done. He was disposed to foster the unanimity which had prevailed more fully at this Conference than at many for years past, and therefore was less anxious about the wording to be employed, provided the spirit and force of the motion submitted to the Conference were not lost. (Hear.) He could not consent to that, and failing a satisfactory substitution or altera-

tion of terms, he was fully prepared to vote for the proposition submitted to the Conference by Mr. Keeling. The principles of Methodism must be upheld; these for one he could not consent to sacrifice. (Hear.)

Mr. MARSDEN remarked, that attempts had been made to break down the discipline of the connexion; and similar attempts would probably be made during the coming year. He wished the Conference to be firm in its constitution, and to uphold its district meetings. He approved of the resolutions proposed, and would support them. If any by-word could be modified, he had no objection to that; but he hoped the spirit of the resolution would be maintained. If they did so, he had no fear of the result. God would be with them in supporting a just discipline.

Dr. NEWTON said, having received his fifty-second appointment, he might now be considered one of the fathers of the connexion. He felt the past year to be a solemn one. He considered the decision of the Conference, on the present case, would be productive of much good or of much evil. He had often thanked God for the trust reposed in them as a body of ministers, and the regard they had shewn for it. Let them take care how they seemed to violate that trust. The present agitation was directed against the just authority of district meetings. One man had lately said—"I know my Lord Lyndhurst supported district meetings, but I pronounce differently." Now, the London district had felt bound to give some directions in the case. But their directions had not been carried out. London, to some extent, influenced the country. Others, who had exercised discipline, had consequently to bear much obloquy; but the societies where discipline had been exercised were benefitted by it. (Here Dr. Newton gave several instances in support of this statement.) Now, when some brethren had incurred odium in the performance of their duty, was it just to them to let others neglect it, and leave evils to cause themselves? As to Dr. Beaumont being a minister of forty years' standing, did not that tell against his proceedings? Should he not, for that reason, have done his duty? Dr. Dixon had spoken of "grace." Was there not grace in that decision? Had he (Dr. N.) done as Dr. Beaumont had done, he should have expected that the Conference would have deprived him of his office as a superintendent. They owed much to their own brethren, and to their people, who were supporting Methodism, some of whom came to the conclusion, that if agitation were permitted, they would leave the connexion. He hoped the Conference would do what it could to promote uniformity in the administration of discipline throughout the connexion, and that the Lord would make men who dwelt in one house to be of one mind.

The Ex-PRESIDENT could not be a party to a sinful compromise. There was a man who was doing his utmost to injure Methodism; there was a great agitation;—there were district influences at work; societies were inflamed; and all these things continued for months. Under these circumstances a district meeting was held. It was apparent that this man had committed sin, in promoting such agitation. The superintendent of the circuit was directed to deal with him. Instead of doing so, the charges were preferred as those of the district meeting; no evidence was produced; the meeting ended with an eulogium on the offender; and to that day he was continued as a member and a leader. Had all superintendents acted in that manner, the result would have been most disastrous. With twelve months before them of possible agitation, how were they to support superintendents? Were they to say, in cases where agitation existed, as Eli said to his sons, "Nay, my sons, it is no good re-

port that I hear; ye make the Lord's people to transgress;"—and then do nothing to prevent it? Some might think it easier to say, "I will bear a slight censure rather than meet the storm;" but was that right? Dr. Dixon talked of "mercy;" but let them consider how souls had been turned out of the way by these agitations. They owed mercy to their people, and to the young of their charge. They must maintain their discipline, from a deep sense of their duty to God and his cause. He (the Ex-President) should vote for the resolutions.

Mr. WM. SMITH said the names of Doctors Dixon and Beaumont had influenced others. What the Conference did in this matter would have its effect. The case before them was an aggravated one, and in his judgement Dr. Beaumont should have been formally charged and tried.

At this stage of the proceedings, there was a general call for

Dr. BUNTING, who said that he felt himself unable to address the Conference, but he cordially concurred in the resolutions. The Methodist people were looking to the Conference to give a decided judgement on this case. They were dissatisfied with the evasive way in which Dr. Beaumont and his colleagues had acted. The Hinde-street circuit was, upon the whole, he believed, in no better condition than Spitalfields circuit, where discipline had been enforced. An appeal had been made by several brethren to the platform for their opinion, but in his judgement this was a case which especially called for the younger men to exert themselves. They would have to maintain the discipline of the Connexion when others had passed away.

The further discussion of the subject was then adjourned.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a letter from Mr. Armson, stating that though Mr. George had spent two or three days at Grantham, he had not observed anything in his conduct which seemed to demand the attention of Conference.

DR. BEAUMONT'S CASE RESUMED.

Dr. Beaumont's case was again resumed.

Dr. BEAUMONT applied for a copy of the resolutions proposed on his case, which contained, as he said, averments which, if his ear had caught the sound correctly, were wholly incorrect. He characterized the resolutions as a document prepared by the platform, led on by Dr. Bunting.

Mr. KEELING declared that this was not the fact.

Dr. BUNTING said he had not even been consulted respecting them.

The PRESIDENT observed that Dr. Beaumont had no right to insinuate that a resolution read by one man to the Conference belonged to another. And that he ought to retract what he had said of Dr. Bunting.

Dr. BEAUMONT replied that Dr. Bunting was, of course, right in what he said, and he (Dr. Beaumont) was wrong. He withdrew his assertion.

The PRESIDENT remarked that if Dr. Beaumont wished to inspect the paper containing the resolutions, there would be no objection.

The SECRETARY suggested that Dr. Beaumont should have time to look over the paper leisurely.

Dr. BEAUMONT replied that if the paper were handed to him to refer to as he proceeded, he would at once go on.

The paper was accordingly handed to him.

Dr. BEAUMONT then entered on his defence, which occupied one hour

and forty minutes. The first resolution stated that he had not carried the directions of the District Meeting into effect. This appeared to him a mystery, unintelligible, or if intelligible, untrue. The resolution was that he should take action against Mr. Grosjean. And had he not done so? The directions of the District Meeting had not been in his possession twenty-four hours before he took action upon them. At the meeting of preachers arrangements were made for bringing Mr. Grosjean for trial. He indeed (Dr. Beaumont) was out of town for some days afterwards; but he performed his duty while away. He gave Mr. Grosjean notice of the day fixed upon for his trial, and made arrangements for its taking place. If any of the proceedings taken in Hinde-street on this matter had or should hereafter cause disaster, who was to answer for it? "Not I, (continued the doctor) who only acted as I was bound to do, under the direction of others; but that District Meeting who so directed me. They took the matter out of my hands; they took upon themselves the responsibility of action; I was merely their agent—acting so much under their direction as I felt myself, by the constitution of our society, bound to act. How could I charge Mr. Grosjean with some of those charges mentioned in that resolution which I did not believe? How would you have considered my conduct had I separated those accusations one from the other, and by my act some of them had failed? I felt that if I acted under those resolutions I must act upon the whole of them, and the whole of them I could not myself act upon as of my own will and judgment; and I therefore think I have cause to complain that those resolutions of the District Meeting debarred me from taking the course in my circuit which approved itself to me. I acted uprightly, sincerely, earnestly, conscientiously, scripturally. Your censure, indeed, of such conduct will be over in a day, but your and my conscience praise or blame for ever! I could not do that foul, self-contaminating thing, to go before a leaders' meeting with a lie in my mouth, alleging against a brother with my lips what I disbelieved in my heart!" Dr. Beaumont did not blame Mr. Strachan for his retirement from the office he had undertaken if he felt called upon to do so; but that retirement put him (Dr. B.) in a most difficult position. When Mr. Clegg offered to do what he could, he was unwilling that he should have to do it, because of his youth and standing, and lest he should damage himself. But what could be done? Mr. Arthur, indeed, who believed the charges and approved of them, and who he (Dr. B.) believed voted for the resolutions of the District Meeting, never proposed to assist him, and he certainly was the person to bring the charges, yet he of all the preachers in the Hinde-street circuit was the only one who had received the approval of the Conference. If indeed the District Meeting desired that he (Dr. B.) was to expel Mr. Grosjean, why did they not use that phrase? Their meaning would then at the least have been intelligible. Dr. Beaumont maintained that he had fulfilled his duty as a member of the District Meeting; if he had failed in obtaining what they desired, it was their own fault that they had not told him what that was, and then he might have seen whether it was possible or not. He had not told Mr. Grosjean that he had nothing against him; he had before the district meeting told him that he should require of him a full retraction of anything which he might be found to have said in public which might be found to be untrue in fact. The resolution spoke of the *exaggeration of differences between him and his colleagues*. This was called a *finding*. A pretty finding, indeed! Where was it found? Was

it found here? He had never had any differences with his colleagues to exaggerate; he had passed the year in great unanimity with them. He therefore repudiated, denied, and contemned this *finding*, and refused to be dealt with upon an allegation so untrue. Anything which they might do upon such allegations would be without foundation, nugatory, and powerless. Dr. Beaumont wished to know who *found* his reluctance to exercise Methodist discipline against a Methodist offender? He (Dr. Beaumont) could not *find* it, any further than any estimable man must be reluctant to punish. Had he shown any criminal reluctance? Where was the evidence that he proceeded unwillingly? He repudiated and denied it in every form of language that could be used? Of course, as that proceeded on a mistake, the corollary that he proceeded in such a manner as to ensure the failure of the attempt to bring Mr. Grosjean to trial was also a mistake. With reference to Mr. Grosjean, had he not secured a retraction of a paltry misrepresentation? Had he not remonstrated on his conduct, and brought it before a local preachers' meeting? And finally, had he not, when that gentleman had committed an act of contempt of the circuit meeting—had he not taken strong measures against him, and, indeed, suspended him from his office as a local preacher? It had been said that such a step was nothing! Nothing? He (Dr. Beaumont) considered it a very important thing. He differed with those who did not think that the deposing of a local preacher was an act of equal magnitude with the taking away of membership. A local preacher was, in the church, far above either a member or leader. These were man-made, human manufactured officers, but a preacher has a Divine call. The act of discipline exercised on a local preacher, was one of the highest. In all cases except those of immorality, he contended that many steps should be taken before expulsion; repeated remonstrances and suspension. They should rebuke, reprove, exhort, induce, and entreat, with all long suffering, and Christian patience and forbearance. Have you all done so? (continued the doctor.) I trow not. I maintain and assert here, then, that, as well as a minister of Christ as a Methodist preacher, I have done my duty. Dr. Beaumont then said that he formed his judgement on the word of God, in the first place, and then on the Minutes of Conference; and according to that judgement so formed he had acted. If the Conference should consider that to act so was a failure of duty, he would regret; but he could not but think, even then, that it was the performance of duty. That he had weakened the hands of his colleagues, he indignantly and forcibly refuted. There was no difference of opinion between him and his colleagues, and what obstruction did he ever throw in the way of the action of his colleagues. The next clause stated that his colleagues, after having collected the evidence, were not justified in giving up the case, and suffering it to go to the leaders' meeting without being sustained. Now, he begged them not to blame his colleagues. If censure must fall (continued Dr. Beaumont) let it fall on me. Whatever was done, he hoped would be done to him alone. He hoped that Mr. Strachan would not be considered as having done anything worthy of censure in giving up his office of accuser. Whatever may be your pleasure, I am prepared for it; whatever you do, do it to me alone; I can bear your displeasure by the help of a good conscience in its unbroken weight. On the whole—and what a whole it is!—you say that you will censure this conscientious conduct of mine.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING: That it merits censure.

Dr. BEAUMONT: Ah! that indeed is worse. If indeed you had pro-

ceded to *censure* me, I might have borne it. I would have attributed it to obfuscation of intellect, to mental vacillation, to constitutional timidity, to unaccountable impulse; but how am I to bear the desert of censure? On what grounds can you allege that I merit it? I have shown you that in the matter of Mr. Grosjean I have acted earnestly, sincerely, honestly, constitutionally, upon the directions of the District Meeting. And have I neglected my circuit? Have I caused there desolation, devastation, ruin, woe? Have I torn up and destroyed the tree of righteousness? Have I desolated the vineyard of the Lord? Have I scattered his sheep? What have I done? Look at the state of my circuit. I maintain that no circuit in the district is so prosperous, yet in no circuit is there a more extensive, vigorous, intellectual action on important debatable points than there is in it. With twelve backsliders, with twelve removals, I yet have for the last quarter an increase of eleven members. Do you call that ruin and woe? Some say Yes! I say No! As to the sinews of war (the proofs of peace,) we have also great cause for congratulation. Our Kingswood collections produced £47: Chapel Fund collections, £47 4s.; July collections, £35 2s. 7d.; yearly collections, £56; Theological Institution subscriptions, £22 16s.; Superannuated Preachers' Subscriptions, £56 1s. Is that what you call ruin? We have opened since the last Conference one new chapel, and a very important one is now progressing. Is that desolation? What have I done? I have gone for you all over the land, by winter and summer, night and morning, early and late, often exhausted; sometimes with a feeble frame and a heavy heart, have I travelled, and preached, and spoken for you; for your chapels, your missions, your schools. And am I for this to be censured? Do I for this merit censure? I might have obtained your vote of thanks for separation, division, expulsion, strife; and am I to be censured, having converted sinners, kept together the church, fed the sheep of our Lord Jesus Christ, established the weak, exhorted and censured the unruly, and brought back the erring? Have I not attended to my own Circuit? Look again to the Connexion. Dr. Newton has intimated that there are many eyes upon you, and he seemed also to intimate that those eyes were looking for my condemnation. You must not suffer those eyes to influence you. There are also other eyes, which may look upon me with other sentiments. In preaching Christ's gospel, in all my journeyings, I have injured no man's character. I have gathered up no scandal. I have never meddled with Connexional matters in my intercourse with our people. My wish has been to promote the cause of my Saviour, and this motive has actuated me in the government of my circuit. I believe I have promoted its best interests. If you think the contrary, I regret it. I am told I have discouraged others in their course, forsooth! Who are these? Are they my exemplars—in labours more abundant—more unceasing, more sincere? My seniors or my juniors? My models by attainments, success, piety, age? Are they to ask me to follow them, or am I to say, *do as I do*? If all the superintendents of circuits in this Connexion had acted as I have done and do, what would be now the state of the Connexion? *Better than it is!* (Cries of "No, no," and "Yes, yes.") Mr. Duncan, indeed, has said that I must have been convinced of the charge of Mr. Grosjean's having acted improperly in Exeter Hall. Of course I was; but am I to cut a man off from Christ's holy church because he proposes an amendment at a public meeting? God forbid! Mr. Prest in his anxiety to injure me, went back to the

time of Dr. Warren, in 1835. What complaint has Mr. Prest to urge against my conduct? To throw out dark hints, to allude to indistinct rumours, for the purpose of damaging my case—is that the part of a brother? And why did Mr. Prest take that trouble? What does he know about it? In 1835 I was stationed at Edinburgh, and an arduous and trying year I had indeed of it. If I misbehaved myself, why did not Mr. Prest bring me up *then*, not *now*? It is said that I pronounced an eulogium on Mr. Grosjean. And did not Mr. Sherman the same? Why did you not blame Mr. Sherman? As to Mr. Rattenbury, whom I must here call “grand inquisitor”—(Cries of “Order, order.”)

The PRESIDENT said that Dr. Beaumont must retract—that language of that sort was disorderly.

Dr. BEAUMONT said, if anything I have said is improper, I will willingly retract it. And as to Mr. Rattenbury, I pass by his numerous accusations as having little bearing on the case. Mr. Wm. Bunting has said that the platform must decide the question now at issue; but Dr. Bunting, on the other hand, has referred to the younger members as the proper persons to come forward and settle it. Now, to all parties, in conclusion, I appeal. I appeal to your justice. Dr. Dixon has made some remarks about grace and mercy. I cannot appeal to you for mercy. I do not appeal to you either for mercy or grace. I ask for justice, and justice only. I claim my rights. Sensible, indeed, I am of having many shortcomings before my God; but sure I am of having done my duty to the church, that I do not deserve any censure at your hands. I ask for justice, and justice alone. I appeal not for mercy. I leave my case to the justice of the Conference. I believe I have done my duty, and I shall be glad if the Conference should decide that I have done so.

Mr. ARTHUR made some observations respecting an imputation which Dr. Beaumont appeared to have cast upon him of having given information which ought to have been regarded as strictly private. He (Mr. A.) denied that he had done so. Dr. Beaumont's own statement had sufficiently disproved it.

Dr. BEAUMONT said he had every respect for Mr. Arthur, and had no intention to reflect upon him. He had been perfectly satisfied with him as his colleague, and should be glad to co-operate with him as such anywhere.

Mr. JOHN WESLEY THOMAS said he had felt a backwardness and delicacy in intruding himself on this very serious and important occasion, lest he should appear to retain any personal feeling from the little difference between him and Dr. Beaumont at the last Conference. But he could assure the Doctor that no such feeling existed. It might seem an invidious thing to advocate even comparative severity, but he was of opinion that in all the circumstances of the case, the proposed resolutions were not severe at all. A comparison had been made between this case and that of Mr. Walker in favour of Dr. Beaumont; but he (Mr. T.) did not think this comparison fair to Mr. Walker. There was another comparison that might be made—between this case and that of Mr. Rowland. For certain expressions, which were published without his consent, Mr. Rowland had not only been censured, but deposed from his office, and incapacitated from again filling it for some time to come. Were laws to be like cobwebs, which catch small flies, and let great ones break through? What, then, became of their impartiality—their justice? Dr. Beaumont might have summed up the whole of his

speech in a single word, *Nego*, for he denied everything. He asked why the district meeting did not require him to expel Mr. Grosjean? How could they direct him to expel a man untried? What they said, in effect, was, "Try him, and do justly." Dr. Beaumont, he believed, did suspend Mr. Grosjean by his own authority, when that authority was attacked. This was human nature—to cry out against the authority it does not possess; and employ and often to abuse the power which it does possess. Dr. Beaumont had told them that excommunication is a very awful thing, and ought only to be inflicted for immorality—for breaking the commandments of God. But are not the precepts of the New Testament the commandments of God? Is not unrepented slander immorality? Is there no apostolic sanction for excluding from the church those who break its peace, and fling the torch of discord into the porch of heaven? "A man that is a heretic"—a maker of parties in the church—"reject, after the first and second admonition." "I know thy works, and labour, and patience, and how thou canst not bear them that are evil; and how thou hast tried them that say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars." You may call excommunication, if you please, a consigning to the world that lieth in the wicked one; but it is a painful alternative, a last resource for those who are persistent in evil; not only a punishment, but a moral lesson, to the party himself; and he commended to Dr. Beaumont's consideration, and to that of all the brethren who may be placed, as he had been, in difficult circumstances, the example and words of St. Paul—"Holding faith and a good conscience, which some having put away, concerning faith have made shipwreck. Of whom are Hymeneus and Alexander whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to calumniate."

Mr. F. J. Jonsson said, in ordinary cases he was accustomed to leave others to express his thoughts, and by waiting for a time he generally found one or more of his brethren expressed them better than he could express them himself; but there were some cases in which it became a minister to speak for himself, and this was one of them. Indeed he felt too strongly concerning it to be silent. In his estimation the subject was most important,—not merely as relating to Dr. Beaumont and the Hinde-street circuit, or the disciplinary proceedings of the Conference for this year, but also in its relation to the maintenance of Wesleyan order and government throughout the connexion for many years to come. He had felt deep regret for the situation of Dr. Beaumont, and had hoped that he would have said something to his brethren, which would have enabled them to relieve him; and last evening he (Mr. J.) had formed the purpose, and had cherished that purpose during wakeful hours in the night,—that he would propose the introduction of a clause into the resolution before the Conference, which would modify and soften down some of its stronger terms;—he had resolved to propose, in the place of the words "merits the censure of the Conference"—"the Conference contents itself with the expression of its disapprobation, with the hope that in future Dr. Beaumont will be found more prompt and more faithful in the administration of Wesleyan discipline:" but he confessed that, after the self-justifying speech to which he had listened, he had no such hope, and now he was driven to vote for the resolution in its original form, and with the terms he had desired to supersede. And he should do so with the belief that, for the case, the resolution was mild and merciful. He felt with Dr. Dixon, that

his personal need of mercy from God was so great, that he ought to be merciful to the utmost to others, but after what had been stated in the way of defence—attempting to justify what Conference declared to be a serious defect in the performance of a superintendent's duty, and affording no reason to hope for greater faithfulness in the time to come,—it was in his mind a question, whether to a minister making such a defence any circuit in Methodism ought to be entrusted; and in such circumstances he felt that the phrase "merits censure" was very merciful. This he had no doubt was the feeling of the Conference generally, and that most of the ministers present would vote for the resolution; but he had determined to take an open unmistakeable part in this and all such cases, and therefore he had occupied the time of his brethren to say how he should vote, and what were the reasons that influenced him.

Mr. R. YOUNG was anxious to come to a right conclusion. It was his decided opinion that Dr. Beaumont had been most unfaithful in the administration of discipline, which had produced painful results not only in his own circuit but in others. His conduct had emboldened agitation, and had rendered the administration of discipline in some places more difficult than it otherwise would have been. Yet, while these were his (Mr. Y.'s) views, he would offer to the consideration of the Conference some mitigating circumstances in his favour. First, Dr. Beaumont did attempt to carry into effect the decision of the District Meeting, but he failed: there he had committed a culpable blunder; but he had nevertheless made the attempt. Secondly, Dr. Beaumont had said, that if he failed he was sorry for it. He (Mr. Young) wished to mark that expression. Thirdly, he acknowledged his error in admitting a reporter into the Leaders' Meeting who was not a member of it. Fourthly, he had commenced the exercise of discipline on Mr. Grosjean, and from an intimation he had given the Conference, they might expect that more stringent measures would follow. He (Mr. Young) thought these mitigating circumstances should exert an influence on the Conference. He would encounter anything rather than sacrifice discipline; but if the justice of the case could be met without the word "censure," he should rejoice. The "censure" of the Conference was a terrible, a crushing thing. He would rather die than incur it. If then the justice of the case could be met with less, he should be thankful. He wished unanimity, and would say—"mark the offence, but spare the offender."

Dr. DIXON felt what he believed every brother assembled must feel, that great results rested on the decision of the Conference regarding this case, either one way or the other. He must take the liberty of saying that he thought the resolutions too general, and in some respects too particular and minute. The resolutions affirmed facts which Dr. Beaumont denied as facts. Now, for instance, the resolutions stated that Dr. Beaumont (he forgot the terms) hesitated to act on the instructions of the District Meeting. ("No, no.")

Mr. CROWTHER said the words were, that he (Dr. Beaumont) did not carry out the resolutions of the District Meeting.

Dr. DIXON supposed he was mistaken about that. He had listened with great interest to Dr. Beaumont's denials. He had found that in twenty-four hours after the resolutions of the District Meeting, Dr. Beaumont had taken some action in the case. He supposed his action was not what the District Meeting wished, desired, and intended; but Dr. Beaumont told them that he had acted in good faith on the resolutions of the District Meeting. He (Dr. Dixon) must take the liberty of saying

that these resolutions went a little too far in the way of indictment; particulars were put in. Now he thought Dr. Beaumont might have erred; his judgement was liable to eccentricities like other folks; but he could not believe that the Doctor in that affair had acted dishonestly. (Cries of "no, no.") Well, he would not embarrass them by going into details. He thought he understood the spirit of the Conference,—first, they meant to re-affirm the authority of District Meetings;—("yes, yes")—secondly, they meant to maintain it. ("Yes, yes.") Well, let them remember the peculiarities of the case. Let them consider how difficult it was for a man to do what was agreeable to a great aggregation of men. For many months, Dr. Beaumont, like himself, as they knew, had been left to the exercise of his own judgement; but when they had interposed and determined that their discipline should be carried out, he had endeavoured to comply with their will. He (Dr. Dixon) submitted that a new affirmation of their purpose to maintain their own discipline, without using the crushing term "censure," would serve their purpose. ("No, no.") Well, he differed from those who differed from him. He was more of a practical man than some of them thought him to be. He did not know whether the term "disapproval" would meet the case; but he begged the substitution of that term for the word "censure."

Mr. RULE seconded Dr. Dixon's motion.

Mr. S. JACKSON said,—If I understand the mind of the brethren, it is their firm and united purpose to uphold our system of discipline. The effect of our decision this day is to be, to tell our people, through the length and breadth of the land, so that there can be no mistake, that there is to be no repetition of the things which have transpired in the Hinde-street circuit, during the past year. All parties are distinctly to understand, that if any member of society deem it right to go into other circuits for the purpose of agitating our societies, he is to be brought before the Leaders' meeting to which he is amenable; and if any minister, in future, refuse to deal with such a man, there is a Conference in existence which will assuredly deal with him. There is also to be an end of what, the other day, was called "shuffling;" and three or four ministers, in the same circuit, are not to consider that they have done their duty by merely throwing the responsibility one upon another. Taking it for granted, therefore, that these high ends are to be secured, then comes the question,—How, or by what course, they are most likely to be attained? Several speeches, delivered by a respected individual, appear to me to proceed upon the principle, that the great ends of government are to be attained by the mere exercise of mercy. If there is any community of human beings, civil or ecclesiastical, which has been preserved in order, on such a principle, I for one should like to know where it is; or, if any man think such a state of things to be possible in theory, I should wish to hear the arguments by which he seeks to support it; only adding, that they should be clear and strong, since it is my settled opinion, that such a state of things never did, and never will, and never can, subsist. Another expedient, by which we may at once gratify our kindly feelings, and maintain our rules, is, to connect the exercise of mercy in this particular case, with a resolution that this act shall not in future be pleaded as a precedent. But this course involves a principle which governments, wishful to preserve the authority of their laws, have not yet ventured to adopt. It has also been suggested, that, in this case, mercy may be exercised without damage to our laws, on the ground of a probable improvement in the conduct of the party now under consideration. But to remit

a merited penalty, because the offender is penitent, and likely to amend, is a course of proceeding universally deemed incompatible with the maintenance of the authority of law. Like all the rest of my brethren, I also feel a pleasure in the exercise of mercy, and am so desirous to shew all proper kindness in this particular case, that I have thought of another expedient, by which this may properly be done. That is, for the offence to take upon itself a part of this blame, by admitting it had made an improper appointment, and imposed on a particular minister duties to which he was unequal. But this also would be perilous, as men, who voluntarily undertake an office, must be held responsible for the performance of its duties. Hitherto mankind have found out no way by which the authority of law can be upheld, and order preserved, without the infliction of punishment, in one form or another, and this has always been, to all the parties concerned, a very painful process. For my own part, I am deeply troubled and distressed by all the circumstances of the case now under consideration. In administering the laws, and sustaining the government of our country, our judges are continually compelled to do violence to their own feelings. My hope and desire is, that all the tenderness will be shown on this occasion, which is consistent with the attainment of the great ends to which we have already referred. But, at all risks, our laws must be upheld, and there must be no repetition of the things which form the subject of the present complaint, and I call upon you, sir, and the brethren, to make up your minds at once to endure, as far as may be necessary, all that may be painful and distressing, in maintaining unimpaired that system of discipline which has been committed to our trust.

Mr. W. L. THORNTON said—One of the most venerated members of the Conference having appealed on this question to the junior ministers, he would venture to give expression to his own deep and serious convictions. He could earnestly desire to spare Dr. Beaumont the pain and humiliation inseparable from the censure of this Conference; but, remembering the enormity of the offence against our church discipline which Mr. Grosjean had committed, and the suppression or neglect of evidence actually in possession, by which he might have been clearly convicted; and, especially taking into account that which he (the speaker) could not but regard as the consummation of the ecclesiastical sin now complained of, but in regard to which, Dr. B. had been significantly silent,—viz., that instead of dealing with the case as the district meeting directed, the superintendent had consented to put from the chair of the Leaders' meeting a vote of esteem and confidence in favour of the notorious offender, he could not hesitate as to the vote soon to be given. It always gave him pain to concur in any proceeding that looked like severity; but here our discipline had been trifled with—had been trampled upon. The direction of the presbytery had been practically set at nought; and a case arose for the interference of this venerable body. For the reasons above given, and for a deeper reason,—namely, the tendency of their entire strife against the ministry, he must contend for the word "censure." He, for one, could not consent to anything that went to favour the design, too evident, of wresting the pastoral crook from the hands of his fathers and brethren.

Mr. HENRY DAVIS inquired whether the Conference was prepared to submit the motion, or any modification of it, to a vote?

There were general cries of "motion."

The PRESIDENT observed, that he had been anxious to afford a full

opportunity of discussion on the case; but if the Conference thought that sufficient time had been spent upon it, and that it would be suitable now to come to a vote, well. (Cries of "motion.")

Mr. W. M. BUNTING thought it a pity that the moral effect of the decision should be endangered by putting all the clauses together. He suggested that they should be put *seriatim*. He also wished to suggest some verbal alterations, which he was willing to submit to the mover of the resolution.

Dr. BUNTING objected to be considered the author of the resolutions which were before the Conference. Dr. Beaumont had attributed their authorship to him, and those who claimed Dr. Beaumont as favourable to their views, often so attributed the origin of things to him (Dr. Bunting), as though nothing was done but he must be the doer of it. Now this was unfair, for it was not correct. He was for the reading of the clauses *seriatim*. There was one in particular, on which he wished to offer some remarks.

This course being agreed on, the resolutions were again read to the Conference, and, after the verbal alterations suggested, were considered in detail.

Dr. ALDER said, he felt desirous to give a decided vote; but he could not do so without looking at the state of the Hinde-street circuit for the last two or three years. He felt wishful to give Dr. Beaumont and his colleagues all the advantages arising from that consideration. He, therefore, begged to suggest the following addition to the resolutions—"But, taking into consideration all the circumstances of that circuit, the Conference abstains from inflicting censure in the present instance."

This addition was objected to and negatived.

A further discussion ensued on the meaning of the word censure, and the propriety of substituting some other term sufficiently expressive of the judgement of the Conference, which led

Mr. KEELING, the mover of the resolutions, to say, that the Conference might, if it thought proper,—though he did not recommend it,—instead of using the words "merits censure," adopt, as a substitution, the phrase—"is viewed by the Conference with strong disapprobation, and with feelings of fraternal grief and disappointment."

Mr. MACDONALD believed, if that phrase was substituted, it would tend to more unity in the decision than anything else.

Mr. OSBORN inquired, what was the use of unity, if their discipline were sacrificed? What was the proposal? In fact, it was to say, that their discipline must be sacrificed. He would ask the Conference to look at the question, as men invested with the trust of John Wesley's doctrine and discipline. What would he have said, if a man had taken his course in opposition to the will of his brethren? He wished to look at the question with the calmness becoming it. The brethren of the minister concerned had directed him (Dr. Beaumont) to take a certain course; that minister, instead of doing so, in order to bring discipline to bear against a man who had made the connexion a reproach before the world, and who was a member of a confederacy designed to break down Methodism and bring in Independency,—instead of doing his duty, he allowed that man to protest against the District meeting. Was not that giving up one of their vital principles? After meeting in 1828, in that very chapel, in support of the authority of district meetings, and with the best results, were they now prepared to give it up?

Dr. BEAUMONT rose to order. Mr. Osborn was introducing new matter.

The **PRESIDENT** reminded Dr. Beaumont, that he allowed the fullest discussion, and that Mr. Osborn was the speaker.

Mr. **OSBORN**, in continuation, said, he was speaking to the question. The Conference was the pastor of Dr. Beaumont: it was the shepherd of the shepherds. If Dr. Beaumont said, that he had protested against the conduct of a member at a Leaders' meeting, who objected to the interference of a District meeting, he (Mr. O.) should be happy to hear it.

Dr. **BEAUMONT** said, he had protested.

Mr. **OSBORN**—Then he would fall back on the general argument. The person accused was notoriously a member of a conspiracy, designed to subvert Methodism and introduce Independency. If they intended to allow men, who told them that they would not submit to the interference of a district meeting, to proceed unchecked, they in effect, introduced Independency. He would not have troubled the Conference, but from a conviction that a crisis had arrived in their history. They were called to give a decision, whether what they had received from their fathers should go down pure to posterity or not. He was prepared to take the consequence of preserving it. The individual accused had been declared by a resolution of the Leaders' meeting, free from blame. The superintendent had put the resolution from the chair. So far from doing his duty, he had stood upon a technicality. His argument, in effect, had been—"There is no accuser, therefore there is no charge;—there is no charge, therefore there is no blame." He ventured to say, that, even forty years of service,—and, he rejoiced, of valuable service,—to the connexion, ought not to be considered sufficient to shield any man from censure, at the sacrifice of the connexional principle. No man ought, by forty years of service, to be exempted from solemn censure, when he deserved censure. He would thankfully waive any such consideration for the sake of kind feeling, if he could; but was it possible for him not to feel, that, after forty years of service, the same event might happen to him? Still, the solemn trust committed to him was at stake; and in spite of his feelings, he must vote according to his principles. As he would not betray the trust committed to him by those venerable men in whose pulpits he had been permitted to preach, and some of whose ashes rested just behind them, he must vote for censure. Dr. Dixon had reminded them of mercy; but the Book, to which they owed all their teaching, told them to exercise mercy after penitence had been expressed: "If thy brother sin against thee seven times a day, and seven times a day say, I repent, thou shalt forgive him." But when a brother, instead of saying that, says he must take his choice between offending God and offending this Conference—if he could not say, "I am sorry, and will do so no more,"—then that brother was not in a fit state for receiving the exercise of evangelical mercy. They were told to err on the side of mercy. If they erred at all, it would be on that side. He considered that they ought to have adopted Mr. Samuel Jackson's suggestion, as to the unfitness of Dr. Beaumont as a superintendent of a circuit.

After some further remarks on the word "censure," and on some equivalent terms that were mentioned,

The **SECRETARY** observed that they were attempting in vain to dilute the word. They had evidently found the right term, and it was in vain to try to substitute another.

The motion being called for,

The **SECRETARY** read the resolutions again.

The amendment was also read, which Dr. Dixon desired to withdraw,

that another, proposed by Mr. Wm. BUNTING, might be substituted for it. This however was objected to on a point of order.

Dr. DIXON's amendment, that the word "disapprobation" should be substituted for "censure" was submitted to the Conference, and obtained some say sixteen, and others upwards of twenty votes.

The amendment of Mr. Wm. BUNTING—"That the Conference viewed the conduct of Dr. Beaumont with the strongest displeasure, and fraternal grief and disappointment," was put and obtained seventy-five votes.

The original motion—that the conduct of Dr. Beaumont "merited censure," was then submitted to the Conference, and was carried by an overwhelming majority.

The PRESIDENT put the original motion in the negative, and it appeared that only six hands were held up for it.

When the votes were taken on Dr. Dixon's amendment, it was thought by some brother near Dr. Beaumont that a larger number than twenty-one had voted for that amendment. Dr. Beaumont therefore made some observation to that effect, which seemed to reflect on the accuracy of the announcement from the chair.

At the close of the voting the PRESIDENT referred to Dr. Beaumont's remark on this point, which led him (the President) to inquire whether Dr. Beaumont really meant to question his integrity in making the announcement of numbers. Dr. Beaumont immediately replied that he had the brightest confidence in the integrity of the President—he had not the slightest blame to attach to the chair throughout the whole discussion,—and he had every confidence in his impartiality and justice.

In the case of Mr. Strachan, a motion regretting the course he had pursued was also unanimously passed.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12.

The examination of character was proceeded with.

The two Welsh districts and the Birmingham district were gone through.

The consideration of the character of the missionaries then succeeded.

Mr. INGELS objected to the conduct of the general superintendent of the West Indian missions, Mr. Edmondson, who he (Mr. Ingels) believed had lost in a great degree the confidence of his brethren.

The Conference now proceeded to consider certain cases of the administration of discipline in various disturbed circuits, which cases had been passed over at the time when the ministers' names occurred, and the consideration of them deferred to the end of the question of character.

The first which occurred was Spitalfields.

The very lengthy minutes of the Special District Meeting were read. The reception and confirmation of them were moved, seconded, and passed, without a single observation being made upon them.

It then appeared that the stationing committee had referred the re-appointment of Dr. Beaumont to the Hinde-street circuit to the decision of the Conference, with an intimation of doubt whether his appointment for a third year should take place.

After what had occurred the Conference was now disposed to refer the consideration of this matter again to the stationing committee.

To that course Dr. BEAUMONT demurred. He thought that in the resolutions which the Conference had already passed the whole of his

case had been disposed of. He had not anticipated the judgement which had already been passed upon him.

It was however determined to leave the matter to the stationing committee to express their opinion upon it in the first instance. It must of course be finally decided on by the Conference.

There were in addition several minor matters which required to be settled before the stationing committee could again meet, and these chiefly occupied the Conference during the remainder of the morning sitting; as for instance, "What circuits required additional preachers?" "What circuits found it necessary to diminish the number of their preachers?" Several generous offers were made by individuals, in urgent cases, to provide for the consequent expenses of such appointments, which the Conference gratefully accepted.

Evening Sitting.

The same business was continued as in the forenoon.

Many very striking cases occurred in which the circuits found it necessary to give up part of the staff of ministers. The case of Nottingham stood out prominently from the rest, and occupied a good deal of time. It was allowed that the state of things in that town was very deplorable in the desertion of the chapels and in the diminution of members. It was proposed by the officers of the society to take a preacher less than last year. But the Conference was very unwilling to accede to this, and it was finally agreed that three preachers, as last year, should be sent.

Various other nearly similar cases occurred, and presented considerable difficulties.

In the midst of the evening sitting,

The **PRESIDENT** announced the arrival in the Conference of Dr. M'Clintock, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

He was introduced on the platform, and the **PRESIDENT** addressed him to the following effect:—"I have great pleasure, Dr. M'Clintock, in giving you a hearty, a Christian, and a Methodistical welcome. Though not hitherto personally known to you, I have through a mutual friend that kind of knowledge of your character and attainments which must render our meeting an event interesting to myself. I should have had the pleasure of seeing you sooner, but the Conference was engaged on two or three cases of character, in which you could not be expected to feel any great interest. But as soon as the Conference was about to return to its ordinary business, I hastened to inform you that I should be happy to see you; and I now repeat that it gives me great pleasure to assure you of our cordial welcome."

Dr. M'CLINTOCK said: "It has been for many years my most ardent wish to be permitted to attend the sittings of the British Conference. I am most happy that this wish is now gratified. For several days I have wished for admission into your assembly. To-day I have learnt that what I had begun to apprehend did not exist. There was I learn no indisposition to admit me, but that the delay resulted from the circumstance you have adverted to. As that wish of my heart is now gratified, I have great pleasure in embracing the privilege, and in assuring you that I look upon this as a happy day."

After the circuits had been gone through, the inquiry came on—"Who is to be the Governor of the Taunton School?" Mr. VEVERS having retired for want of health.

The directors petitioned the Conference to appoint Mr. Haswell to that

office; but Mr. Haswell was pledged to go back for a third year to the Leeds third circuit; and the reasons which existed for his return to that town were judged to be very forcible.

It was then proposed that Mr. Hobson should take the appointment of Taunton for one year, and that then Mr. Haswell be appointed.

This was objected to by several of the brethren as unseemly.

The case was finally referred to a committee, which was directed to meet without delay, and give their opinion upon it.

The report of the Book Committee was then received and adopted.

Thanks were voted to the President for the presentation of a copy of his presidential sermon to each of the preachers.

Thanks were also voted to several other writers, including Mr. Welch, of Hull; Mr. Smith, of Camborne; the Rev. S. Jackson, &c., for their publications upon the present agitation.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13.

After the reading of the record of the preceding day, the report of the committee on the governorship of the Taunton School was received. It recommended that Mr. Hobson should for the present year be appointed the governor of the school, with the understanding that Mr. Haswell should take it at the end of a year.

The Conference passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Mrs. Ward, of Hitchin, for having built and furnished a minister's house, at the expense of £1000, and legally settled it in trust for the use of the Conference.

A similar vote was presented to Mr. Wardle, of Leek, for having, at his own expense, built and legally settled a house, for the perpetual use of a minister, worth £750.

All things being prepared for the meeting of the Stationing Committee, to revise the stations, they, with the President and Secretary, left the Conference this forenoon.

Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON took the President's place,

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The report of the School Committee was then submitted to the Conference, and it was agreed that a general collection on behalf of the New Kingswood School should be made not later than the second Sunday in April next.

CHAPEL COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. KELK, the Secretary, read to the Conference the Report of this Committee. The substance of that Report has already been given. The cases in which the final debts left upon Chapels have exceeded the debts allowed by the Committee, and in which Chapels have been built without leave, were reported to the Conference, and particular inquiries were made respecting them. The Superintendents of the several Circuits in which such cases occurred were interrogated, and suitable directions and admonitions were given. The extravagant expenditure on organs was remarked upon by Dr. Bunting, Dr. Beaumont, Messrs. Jobson, Prest, Loutit, and others; and it was resolved that cautionary measures to prevent such extravagant expenditure in future should be employed. Thanks were given to the Chairman, Secretary, and members of the Chapel-Building Committee. The able and elaborate Report showed that they had been most

laborious and persevering in their endeavours to serve Methodism in this department of its working, and that they have strong claims upon the gratitude of the Connexion.

SABBATH COMMITTEE.

The Rev. ROBERT NEWSTEAD read the report of the committee, which was accepted. The thanks of the Conference were presented to the committee—to Mr. Newstead as the Secretary, and to Mr. Heald, M.P., in particular, for his Parliamentary support of the measures adopted for promoting the observance of the Sabbath.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14.

CATECHUMEN CLASSES.

Mr. S. JACKSON, who was in the chair, observed that lest he should be regarded as an advocate he would, with the permission of the Conference, vacate the chair, and request Dr. Bunting to preside.

Dr. BUNTING took the chair, to the evident gratification of the Conference.

Mr. SAMUEL JACKSON said—Methodism, as I understand it, is designed to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land, and to hasten the millennium, when the earth shall be filled with evangelical light and purity. In the Catechumen movement, our interests harmonize with our duty. Our people are trained to action, and accustomed to success;—that several thousands of members be added to our society every year is essential to our peace and quiet as a religious community;—it is needful that our energies be fully enlisted. While the agency of our people is employed under the direction of our ministers, these great results are likely to be advanced. That which is now to be submitted to the Conference has been well considered. The entire catechumen question, both in its principles and details, has, for years, occupied my earnest and prayerful attention; and I would sooner lose my right hand than recommend any thing for adoption, which did not appear likely to promote the prosperity of Methodism, and the happiness of our country and of the world. No schedules have been sent into the circuits this year, for this reason—last year I paid for them myself—this year I thought my money must be put into a different channel: this will account for the catechumen committee having no statistics to return, and their report chiefly consists in a request to the Conference to grant three or four things, small in appearance, but great and important, as we think, in their tendency and probable results. In the first place, we ask that a list of select scriptural lessons, for the year 1851, two for each week, for the use of schools, families, and catechumen classes, be prepared, and sold at the book-room, to those ministers who may order them. One effect of this arrangement will be to bring about a better understanding between the teachers in Sunday and daily schools, heads of families, and ministers, to lead to a more complete co-operation, and bring their united energies to bear upon the minds of our young people, and incessantly to advance their evangelical instruction and salvation. In the next place, we ask that some sort of tickets or tokens be prepared by the book room, sold to the ministers who may order them, and by them be distributed quarterly to the catechumens. This is a simple and innocent expedient in itself, but of great moral force. Every Wesleyan minister

wishes to find his name in the printed minutes, and private members attach importance to their society tickets; and young people greatly value a similar document, because it is to them a visible and palpable proof that they are acknowledged by their ministers as parties receiving instruction, and whose conduct is satisfactory. Children under ten years of age generally act in obedience to their parents. After that age they begin gradually to determine and act for themselves, and then it becomes our duty to influence their minds by moral means, and lead them in the right way. We further request that the number of catechumens in each circuit be returned from year to year, in connexion with the members of the adult society, and persons admitted on trial. This would foster the notion that our young people occupy a sort of middle position between our schools and our churches, and that they are expected by men, and required by God, religiously to advance with their years, and to move on to an act of faith in Christ and a voluntary union with his people. Another thing we ask of the Conference is, that while the committee have power, as in the last year, to add to their number, they be also authorized to associate with themselves one minister in each district, who may co-operate with them in this work. Such an arrangement would tend to increase the number of such classes, and extend their benefits throughout the Connexion. We also ask permission to be permitted, as last year, to solicit funds for the support of the catechist in France. These requests may appear to be trivial in themselves, but if granted by the Conference this work will be gradually and unitedly taken up by our ministers and people, and result in a rapid and unparalleled increase in the members of our adult societies.

Mr. BARTON wished to know whether any catechumen schedule had been issued and returned for this year?

Mr. JACKSON: No; schedules had been used last year, but they had been prepared at his own expense. This year he had not done so. He considered the time had come when the young men should take up the case of catechumen classes, and not leave the matter to the fathers of the Connexion.

Mr. BARTON: The particulars of the motion should in his opinion be separated. The lessons would be very valuable. The tokens he considered would not be valued, and on several accounts he questioned the propriety of giving them. Would not a recognition of the names of the catechumens, in some other shape, be sufficient? As to a schedule, he was of opinion that another mode might be fixed upon preferable to that of incorporating it with the Society schedule.

Mr. LOUITT.—The principle upon which the resolutions appeared to proceed was, that the church should make adequate provision for gathering into her fold all her children, for training them up in the saving knowledge of Christ. He considered she was bound to this by the sacrament of baptism—by covenant ties—and by the commandment and example of Christ. All other Protestant churches had in some form recognised this principle. Some attempts had been made in that direction—but the resolutions now before the Conference practically embodied it. He would support the resolutions.

Mr. JOHNSON said that the subject before the Conference was most important, and that he was sure he expressed the prevailing sentiment of his brethren when he declared that the entire Wesleyan connexion was laid under great obligation to the Rev. Samuel Jackson, for his earnest and persevering efforts on behalf of the religious education and training

of the young. And he would there take the liberty of stating that the younger of his brethren in the ministry ought to espouse the cause now presented to them; that their duty to Methodism,—their duty to the generation which they were called upon to serve, and, more than all, their duty to Christ, who had enjoined that the lambs of the flock should be fed, claimed their prompt and persevering service. He did not wish to reflect upon the elders in the Conference, when he said that it was too much to expect that they, who had faithfully performed the work of their day, should break through the habits they had formed, and undertake a department of service new to them; but the younger ministers were expected to undertake it, and though it would very seriously increase the amount of their labour, yet they were called upon by the times to perform it. But, while he said this, and was the firm and hearty supporter of Mr. Jackson, in his meritorious efforts on behalf of Methodist youth; and while he was ready to yield that support in the Conference, and in any other assembly, or place, yet there was one proposal included in the recommendations from the preliminary committee, the propriety or expediency of which he very seriously doubted; and that was the proposal to give tokens to the catechumens. He was no advocate for blind and enslaved support to any minister in the Conference, however eminent, in matters that are great and important; but one man could not extensively and thoroughly consider all questions relating even to Methodism; and in minor and unimportant circumstances, he was prepared to be passive under the expressed judgement of such an experienced promoter of catechumen classes as Mr. Jackson; but the question of giving tokens to the members of such classes he considered very important. He objected to that proposal on several grounds,—one of them he would name, and that was the danger that would thereby be incurred of weakening the bond by which the adult members of the Wesleyan Methodist Societies are held visibly together. He was sorry to have reason to state, as the result of his own observations, that Quarterly tickets in Methodism were not at present overvalued; and that the Methodists of this day were not found so frequently treasuring up their quarterly tickets among the most precious things in their possession as did the Methodists of former days; and he for one was not disposed to do anything that would be likely to weaken the outward bond which held Wesleys together; more especially in these days when imitation tickets were given by men unauthorized to admit others to membership. For this reason he was glad that the recommendations of the committee now before the Conference were separately presented, so that they who approved of one, and not of another, might vote accordingly. He fully approved of the recommendations concerning a list of scripture-lessons and statistic returns of catechumens by schedule, but he could not vote for the recommendation of tokens. It might be said, why did he not oppose this recommendation in the preliminary committee? He would answer, that he did not consider it at all times expedient to do all that was lawful. There is such a thing as prudence, as well as individual right and liberty, and reserving the right and privilege which he knew he could exercise in the Conference, he had abstained from either speaking or voting in the committee, on the proposal of tokens.

The PRESIDENT directed that the resolutions should be submitted *seriatim*.

Dr. BEAUMONT had objections to so much system. He would leave each circuit to the judgement of the ministers in it—to their feeling,

their genius, and to the new thoughts which would turn up in the course of a vigorous discharge of duty. In his opinion system stifled all this, and threw them into the groove of uniformity.

Mr. S. JACKSON thought that Dr. Beaumont had mistaken the object of the resolutions. There was no disposition to tie any church down to a particular system. Let the lessons be prepared, and let those circuits have them which preferred them. Every one must see and acknowledge the benefit of system. There were many catechists and other agencies who required, and would gratefully acknowledge, the benefit of a well-considered course of lessons.

Mr. W. WILSON, 3rd: The ministers in their circuits felt the necessity of a system of lessons and other forms of instruction for catechumens. If some acted without, many more would thankfully act upon system. If we did not provide a system of instruction for the use of our own catechumens, they would avail themselves of other systems.

Mr. S. JACKSON: Could all reference to system be avoided? If not, why should we not have the best we could command?—not to supersede, but to be a groundwork for, individual expansion.

Mr. W. H. RULE spoke in favour of a recognized system of lessons. Uniformity was of some importance to the peace and prosperity of the Connexion, but the system was not intended to be obligatory, and did not preclude any individual freedom in its use.

The first proposition, that there be a system of lessons, was unanimously agreed to.

The second proposition, that catechumen tokens be prepared by the book committee, was submitted.

Mr. S. JACKSON urged its adoption on the principle of enlisting the understanding and heart of the young people, and employing those means which Christ had committed to them, and upon which he had promised his blessing.

Dr. BEAUMONT utterly objected to tokens. They were in effect tokens of Church membership. He deprecated all attempts at initial membership. For his part he knew of no membership, or "border" membership; of no condition of membership but the one condition of "a desire to flee from the wrath to come." He deprecated all attempts to introduce a system whose object was to induce or prevail upon young people to believe in Christ, or become members of the church.

Mr. LOUIT observed, that if he understood, Dr. Beaumont, it appeared that they did not agree upon some of the very first principles of our common Christianity, those principles which related to the "training up of children in the way they should go," and the interest which all children, and particularly the children of the faithful, had in the covenant of grace. If we were true to our principle of general redemption, and if means were employed to bring adults to a saving knowledge of Christ, were they not at least with equal earnestness to employ means to bring the young to salvation? To do this in no way interfered with, but was greatly promotive of, the principle of admission into the church.

Mr. ROBERT JACKSON said—I regard Dr. Beaumont's views of the church's treatment of her youth as entirely heterodox. I think he should go to the Theological Institution. I am sure he would have been instructed, had he been at Richmond chapel on Sabbath morning last, and heard the admirable address on baptized infants, as being members of the visible church, and consequently entitled to her instruction and care. As it respects the catechumen movement, Dr. Beaumont is evidently an

entire stranger to it. He has yet to learn the first principles of that question. The point now before the Conference, is the propriety of giving tokens to the catechumens. My own experience leads me at once strongly to recommend them. These tokens should be given by the ministers. It is true this will be an increase of ministerial labour, but there will be found in it nothing onerous and oppressive. It is not that the classes should be met separately, and that the catechumens should be individually spoken to, as in the visitation of the members of the society. All the catechumens of a given locality may be met at once. I have often given as many as two hundred tokens in an hour or an hour and a half. Where the catechumens are numerous, my plan has been to employ one or two persons in writing the names on the tokens. I have then called the classes separately from the assembled catechumens, and then, calling them by name, given to each a token, which recognises them as the catechumens of the church. I regard this as an important arrangement, tending to produce a knowledge and affection between the minister and the young people, leading them to the house of God on a Sabbath evening, and calculated to bring about the most beneficial results. I hope the Conference will not discourage an arrangement which has been found to work advantageously.

Mr. SCHOLES.—If we baptized children and thus introduced them into connection with the visible church of Christ,—if we solemnly dedicated them to the sacred Trinity, we were bound to care for them. And if we had a system of instruction, he felt assured we should be able to do much more than if we were left to all the variety of individual action. He would support the motion for tokens.

Mr. HORNBY had seen the operation of the system in Sheffield West. There the children did not regularly attend to receive the tokens—they were left for them with the catechist. The tokens prevented them from becoming members. Another objection was the additional duty which this part of the system imposed on the minister, whose duty was already sufficiently onerous:—added to the renewal of the society tickets, which already occupied nearly two months in the quarter, they were perpetually giving tickets. Then some of the catechumens were already on trial in the society, and thus they might come to be reported twice. In his opinion the tokens were unnecessary.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS was at a loss to understand the principle of giving tokens. Was it in order to recognise a superior mode of instruction, or was it descriptive of a certain spiritual state? For his own part he could see no principle sufficient to warrant the giving of tokens.

Mr. ARTHUR.—Our people had a knowledge of systematic divinity: but while they valued this they must cultivate a knowledge of the text of Scripture. The system pursued in catechumen classes tended to promote this knowledge. And then the great number of backsliders demanded earnest consideration. He considered that this arose in a multitude of instances from the want of a more correct knowledge of the scriptures. With regard to the tokens it was his opinion that they would materially contribute to organise the youth of our church, and at the same time tend to stimulate their efforts. He looked upon the catechumen classes as training schools for the church; this was the principle involved in the giving of tokens; but the tokens did not entitle them to the privileges of church members, or become a passport to their attending lovefeasts, or the Lord's supper. The token would recognise them as catechumens, and would put them in the way of truth and grace, and ultimate fellowship with the church. He would support the motion.

Mr. FELVUS supported the catechumen movement, but not the giving of tokens. It imposed, especially when the society was large and the catechumens were met quarterly, a great amount of additional labour on the ministers.

Mr. J. McLEAN admitted that in Sheffield West the catechumens had been allowed in great numbers to attend the lovefeast. This was found to be an evil; but if guarded, the system of tokens was good.

Mr. R. JACKSON wished to know if several hundred young people had not given satisfactory evidence of their concern for salvation, and had not joined the society in the Sheffield West Circuit? And whether this was not, under God, attributable to the benefits which they had derived from their connection with the catechumen classes?

This was not denied.

Mr. S. JACKSON disclaimed the intention of tokens admitting the catechumens either to lovefeasts or the Lord's supper. He would say in reference to the tokens as he said with regard to the lessons, let their use be voluntary. Circuits which did not wish to have them need not hinder those which did. Dr. Beaumont's argument that mankind were divided into two classes—the church and the world—appeared to forbid all religious care of the rising generation. He (Mr. J.) considered that if we baptized children we should do more. He did not see how we could escape the duty, or justify ourselves for neglecting to bring even little children to Christ. If parents or others made their possession of the token an excuse for joining the society, he could only say that that was an abuse of a good thing, and that there was nothing to which some persons would not take exception. He wished to urge upon Conference the fact that the Head of the church had placed half a million of children under their pastoral care; and with all respect, but with all earnestness, he wished to know whether they were to let them alone, or endeavour to lead them to Him who died for them? Could they answer it to Christ, to let them grow up in ignorance? It was urged as an objection to schedules that a few of the children would be returned more than once. This might be avoided; but if in some instances that did occur, he could not see any great harm in it. Some of the Sunday-school children were perhaps returned in more than one schedule, but this was immaterial. Mere statistics were not surely to be set against the performance of a great duty. As to Mr. Williams' argument, that he knew of no principle or end to be answered by a token, he (Mr. J.) would say that one important end was to show the catechumens and their parents that they were cared for by the church. Recognition was in itself important, and the tokens were moreover certificates of good conduct. Dr. Beaumont had said much about "buds and blossoms," and "border" members, and that there was danger of creating a formal church. He would ask—is there no danger on the other side? Three or four hundred thousand children passed through the Sunday schools into active life annually. Should not some effective provision be made for them by that church which took them under her care from their earliest years, and by so doing charged herself with their Christian training? Whatever mistake may have occurred in the catechumen movement, the project itself had been honestly pursued. The greatest mistake was in not caring for the entire youth of a Christian community.

Dr. BUNTING considered the present one of the most important hours of the Conference. The subject deserved and received earnest and careful consideration. The principles involved in the discussion were of the

greatest moment. He suggested that in place of a token, to which there might be some objection, there should be a recognition of the catechumens. Perhaps it would meet the case if the name of the catechumen and that of the minister were written in a space provided at the head of the lesson.

With this alteration the proposition was carried unanimously.

The third proposition, that the numbers of the catechumens be returned in the circuit schedule, was submitted.

Mr. WAUGH: The Irish brethren had entered with cordiality and interest into this conversation. They were convinced of the importance of caring for the young, and that this was especially obligatory on the church. He concluded by reading from the minutes of the Irish Conference a rule substantially in accordance with that before the Conference.

Mr. S. JACKSON preferred the catechumens being recognised in direct connection with the church. It was to this he attached importance, and would therefore urge their insertion in the society schedule.

Dr. BUNTING felt some difficulty in mixing the catechumens up with the members, except on the ground of their baptism. He would, upon the whole, like some other mode of statistical report.

The method of carrying out the third resolution was referred to the book committee.

A committee was appointed, with power to add to their number—the Rev. Samuel Jackson convener. This committee was authorized, in connection with the chairman, to appoint a suitable person in each district, who shall more particularly consider himself charged with the interests of the catechumen department of service.

Mr. S. JACKSON thanked the Conference for the kindness with which they had listened to his request, and for the interest they were taking in catechumen classes.

Dr. BUNTING: Mr. Jackson reminded him of a singer in Oldham street Chapel, Manchester. After the late Mr. Bramwell had done preaching, he said to the singer, "We are obliged by your singing." The man replied, "And the congregation are obliged to Mr. Bramwell for his sermon." If Mr. Jackson is obliged to us for taking some interest in the subject now before the Conference, we are obliged to him for the devotion which he has shown to the best interests of the rising generation, and for one of the most important discussions in which the Conference has been engaged. (Cheers.)

SPITALFIELDS CIRCUIT.

Mr. P. DUNCAN said—I am desirous of saying a few words on the state of the Spitalfields circuit, for, notwithstanding all that has been said on that subject, it is liable to be misunderstood. The resolutions which have been passed at various official meetings in the circuit, contain what is indeed true; still I feel there is a danger lest inferences might be drawn, leading to a conclusion that the circuit is in a much better state than it is. I hope I may say that the battle is fought, but the work remaining for my successor will be prodigious. In the various meetings, I believe, that with very ordinary prudence, any Methodistical measures, important to the connexion, may be carried, but much remains to be done. The decrease of members will be great. Commencing from the returns of the last Conference, I believe, before the field be perfectly clear, the decrease will amount to little fewer than a thousand. This is about the number I calculated upon at the commencement of the agitation, and

I fear my anticipations are likely to prove correct. It ought, however, to be stated, that nearly one-half of the estimated decrease will be found at certain places, which have been of but little comparative value to the circuit, some of which have been already given up;—places which, speaking as a Wesleyan Methodist, have appeared to me more as nurseries for sedition than for the church of Christ. The diminution of income is also very great, and although by extra efforts this defect has been supplied, and measures are in progress to meet the case next year, still the labour and sacrifice will be great, nor am I certain but some assistance will be required. There are, however, not a few in the circuit who are determined to stand by Methodism to the last; and many are fully of opinion that a revival of the work of God is at no great distance. I should not be doing justice unless I said a few words about my worthy colleagues before I sit down. They are all true to Methodism, and in all the arduous proceedings of the year I have had their countenance and support. I felt it indeed to be my duty to conduct those proceedings myself, and not to devolve upon them duties so painful, but they were always at their post, ready to take their share of responsibility and reproach, and I know that the principles which they avowed when I was present, they avowed and defended at other times. I must ask the indulgence of the Conference while I say a few words about myself. I have learned that some of my brethren, who have upon the whole approved of our proceedings in the Third London circuit, have yet thought that I stood rather too much on prerogatives, and might, perhaps, have been somewhat more conciliatory. Sir, I cannot say that I am surprised that they should have such an impression. Reports, so called, have been given of certain trials, which I hesitate not to say, are totally unworthy of credit. Some of the worst passages contained in them,—I mean those designed to make most against myself,—are entire fabrications: they are mere inventions; falsehoods, without the shadow of a shade of a foundation whatsoever. In other parts of those reports, so much is left out, and what is true is stated or perverted in such a way, as to constitute the whole little better than falsehoods from beginning to end. Several worthy persons have come forward and requested me to make a correct statement public; and should this be done, they would also be ready, in the same public manner, to attest and corroborate the truth of it. But no, sir: misrepresentations and slanders directed against myself, from the quarter whence they have proceeded, I am not humble enough to notice. Were they, indeed, of such a kind as to hurt the work of God, as was the case with those directed against Dr. Alder and Mr. Hoole, I should do as they have done; but those which terminate with myself, I shall disdain to reply to. No one, I believe, has had a larger share of abuse, throughout the year, than has fallen to my lot; but more than twenty years since I was accustomed to such treatment, and now the burden is no greater than the small dust of the balance. I am not afraid of being thought a tyrant by any one who knows me; and I can assure you that the parties to whom I have alluded, may strike as long and as hard as they please, and if they do not hurt themselves, it will not be felt by me. There is yet, however, another point to which I must allude. Some have said, that in the proceedings of the year, I have been nothing more than a servile instrument in the hands of others. This, I feel bound to say, for others as well as myself, is utterly untrue. By far the most important case which has been taken up, has been that of Mr. Gandy. His influence was great; he was my near neighbour, and my intimate friend; and I had not the slightest ex-

pectation of obtaining the verdict of the Leaders' meeting. All this made the case painful to me beyond what I can describe. But the most painful part of it was this—I was afraid that in proceeding with it I should be brought into collision with my fathers and brethren, who have been falsely said to have originated the whole. The only word I ever heard any of them say, was when Mr. Gandy's name was mentioned by another in connection with the affair, and was to this effect, "Mr. Gandy has held opinions different from ours, but he has held them peaceably; he has been a very quiet man." This was all I heard from any of them before I was fully committed to the case. Nothing but a sense of duty would have induced me to go forward under such circumstances. I felt I had to answer for myself another day,—that when I should have to lift up my hand before the judgement seat of Christ, no Leaders' meeting nor any other person would stand between me and my Judge. It is, therefore, not true that I was directed in the course I took by the men alluded to. I have said that I am not a tyrant, and now I say that I am not a slave. Myself and colleagues have done our best for the good of the circuit. It has been a time of great difficulty. Much work still remains to be done, but I cannot doubt but that the work of God will yet revive in that circuit, and our Zion be in great peace and great prosperity.

WAKEFIELD CIRCUIT.

Mr. Atherton said he understood that there was a memorial from Wakefield, which he would answer when it should be brought forward in the Conference. He then entered into a statement of the circumstances in which he and his colleagues had been placed in that circuit. Certain persons having used their official position to excite disaffection, and having committed various overt acts of opposition to Methodism, their tickets of membership had been withheld; but notice had been given to them that they were entitled to demand, if they thought proper, a trial at a leaders' meeting. One of the parties availed himself of this; and he (Mr. Atherton) expressed his willingness to give a trial. But before a leaders' meeting could be called, a secession was formed, and the parties concerned assembled in a public building in the town. Under these circumstances he (Mr. Atherton) considered that the parties had cut themselves off from the society; but still he (Mr. A.) was willing to give them an opportunity to prosecute an appeal. He then detailed the circumstances which he had gone through in the Wakefield circuit, and the steps he had taken to correct the prejudices and misapprehensions of many of the people. He had warned the persons styling themselves "delegates" against acting in that capacity. Subsequently he had found it necessary, in some instances, to withhold tickets, intimating to the parties so dealt with that they were at liberty to demand a trial at a leaders' meeting; but if they refused to plead, he considered that they forfeited their right to a trial; and he had taken the responsibility of acting upon that view of the case.

Mr. Osborn considered that if a member refused, under such circumstances, to answer "aye" or "nay," he violated one of the first principles of morality. When a man was put on his trial, whether on grounds affecting his morality or for an offence against the discipline of the church to which he belonged, was he entitled to set the laws of Methodism at defiance by refusing to plead? He (Mr. Osborn) considered that he was not, and hoped the Conference would adopt the same view, and by an entry in the minutes to that effect support the Superinten-

dents in the administration of discipline in future. To refuse to plead was not worthy of a Christian professor.

Dr. BEAUMONT did not consider all breaches of discipline breaches of morality. Was a man obliged to cut himself off from membership, and thus apply the sword to himself? He was bound to care for himself.

Dr. BUNTING considered that every man was bound, as an honest man, to plead "aye" or "nay." If he refused to plead, he forfeited his right of being tried.

Mr. PREST was of opinion that the Conference ought to adopt that principle. It was reasonable and scriptural. What did Joshua in the case of Achan; or Peter in the case of Ananias and Sapphira? He (Mr. Prest) preferred Joshua's morality to that of some other persons.

Mr. M'LEAN inquired whether a question of fact, and that of guilt, did not admit of decision?

Dr. BUNTING in reply observed that every man accused ought to deny or admit the fact. If he denied the guilt and demanded a trial he had a right to it.

Mr. M'BRAIR held it to be immorality for persons to conspire together to slander others, and write slanderous articles for publication. He thought Dr. Beaumont's principle had an antinomian tendency.

Mr. BARTON thought the refusal to admit or deny the fact alleged a departure both from Christianity and Methodism. It was a kind of practical antinomianism, from which they ought to separate themselves.

Mr. KEELING thought that to advocate the right of parties to refuse to plead was of itself to plead against the basis of society.

Mr. CHARLES COOK, of France, remarked that he lived in a country where such principles operated to the unsettling of everything. In that country the people acted from a regard to consequences, not to principles; but a law in order to be respected must be upheld by truth, and truth was necessary to the just administration of law.

Dr. BUNTING observed that for a person to refuse either to admit or deny the thing alleged against him was a contempt of court, and a flagrant violation of all Christian honesty. Such a person ought not to have a trial.

Mr. OSBORN said he should be prepared at a proper time to propose a resolution to the effect—that no person should be entitled to a trial if he would not either admit or deny the fact with which he was charged; but as he perceived the stationing committee had entered the Conference, he would postpone his motion to some future sitting.

The stations as revised by the committee were then read without remark, and the Conference adjourned.

Evening Sitting.

MR. ROWLAND'S CASE.

The minutes in this case were again read to the Conference. After a brief conversation,

The PRESIDENT remarked that the point to be then ascertained was, whether Mr. Rowland was prepared to make an apology to the Conference, as he had been requested?

Mr. ROWLAND said,—Mr. President,—As may well be imagined, I now rise to speak with no ordinary emotion—an emotion produced by the sentence which has just been read. My emotion increases when I look around and think that that sentence has been passed by some who were the guides of my youth—by others who have been the companions of my riper

years—and by many with whom I have often taken sweet counsel during the thirty-seven years that I have been in the ministry. Nor is the emotion lessened when I view you all in connection with that bleeding Cross, which is the grand theme of our preaching, and the only foundation of our dearest hopes. Had the sentence which you have passed against me been only half what it is, or only one quarter, or even half a quarter what it is—yet then I should have felt it to be a serious thing. But you have passed the whole of that sentence! What then? My soul still throbs in warm affection and high esteem towards you. My heart's desire and prayer is, that every one of you, with myself, may find mercy of the Lord at that day when we must all stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ. But allow me sincerely and heartily to thank those few brethren who, I understand, held up their hands against the sentence. May their deed be no discomfort to them on reflection amidst the vicissitudes of future life; and when they come to lay their heads on their dying pillows, I think it will be no pain to them, nor excite a blush, to remember that they held up their hands against that sentence upon a brother minister of thirty-seven years' standing, who is without a stain on his moral character. Still, after all, in my conscience I cannot do otherwise than adhere to the principles which are contained in my nine reasons, that were partly written in the minor district meeting at Yarmouth, and every one of them revised there, *AFTER* the whole of the evidence had been received. As to the publication of those reasons, I hardly need to repeat what has been already so explicitly stated, that that was done without my sanction or knowledge. I consider also, that the right of private judgement is seriously involved in this affair. Besides, I think that if the sentence pronounced against me had been drawn up on purpose to render it impossible for me to make the required apology, I know of nothing so calculated to effect that purpose. Under these circumstances, and others that might be mentioned, while I wish to avoid every thing which is contrary to the respect which is due from me to you, Sir, in your high office, and to the members of the Conference, yet, I must say, that I have no apology to offer—nor do I intend to make one.

During the delivery of the above, the most breathless silence prevailed throughout the Conference.

Dr. BUNTING would like Mr. Rowland to understand what was required of him in the way of apology. The Conference did not want him to alter his opinions, but to express his regret for his unjustifiable reflections on its decisions last year. It could not be right that, after such a decision, a member of the Conference should openly oppose it. He ought at least to have quietly acquiesced. The Conference did not require an apology for the publication of his reasons, being willing to take his word that he neither published them himself nor connived at their publication by others. What Mr. Rowland ought to apologise for was, that he had declared his censure of the proceedings of the last Conference in such strong and offensive terms.

The PRESIDENT felt anxious to impress Mr. Rowland's mind with the view just put before him by Dr. Bunting, and would therefore have the passage in Mr. Rowland's document read again.

The SECRETARY accordingly read the eighth passage.

Dr. BUNTING observed Mr. Rowland might apologise for that without any compromise of his opinions.

Mr. ROWLAND said that in his previous remarks he had stated that

there were expressions in that document which he would not use again. Looking at what he had then said and done, and what had transpired since, he must say, with profound respect, that he had no apology to offer.

Mr. TABBAHAM inquired whether it would not meet the case if Mr. Rowland would say that he had used language which he could not now justify, and that he was sorry for having used it.

Mr. PREST did not suppose the Conference was prepared to take the least apology that Mr. Rowland thought proper to offer; but he (Mr. Prest) did think they were prepared to accept the least apology that was commensurate with the greatness of the offence.

Mr. WALSH believed Mr. Rowland was sorry that he had used such language, and thought he would have given satisfaction to the Conference on that point had he not felt the crushing weight of the other part of the sentence.

Dr. BUNTING.—Crushing! There was nothing crushing yet. The Conference had surely a right to express its opinions.

Mr. ROWLAND thought that when he was before called on he had said all that could be reasonably required; but what had transpired since rendered it impossible for him to make an apology.

Mr. HASWELL inquired—Did Mr. Rowland mean to say that such a phrase as “do the penitent” was justifiable?

Mr. ROWLAND wished it to be borne in mind that what Mr. Haswell had mentioned was clearly admitted when he had been called on for his explanation. If he had committed some immorality a more crushing sentence could not have been passed.

Mr. HORTON hardly thought it consistent with the dignity of the Conference thus to urge Mr. Rowland to make an apology; and if an apology were made now it would lose half its value.

Dr. BUNTING inquired whether what Mr. Rowland had said about being sorry, related to the eighth article of his document?

Mr. ROWLAND replied that it did.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING thought that if it were right for Mr. Rowland to apologise on Saturday it could not be wrong now.

Dr. BUNTING took the same view. An apology must be equally right now, notwithstanding any wrong which Mr. Rowland might suppose he had since received.

Mr. ROWLAND said that was not his view.

Mr. KEELING observed that Mr. Rowland was treating the Conference as if it were a mere individual; as though he said to the Conference, “You have done what I think wrong, and therefore I will not do what I ought to do.”

Mr. BARTON regretted the course that Mr. Rowland was taking; and saw only one of two propositions that could be adopted in reference to that amiable, though weak brother,—either they must put him on trial, or make him a supernumerary.

Mr. ROWLAND inquired—Was that the way that a young man like Mr. Barton would treat him, an aged member?

Mr. PREST protested against such remarks. Every man, when admitted to the council of the Conference and its votes, was entitled to express his opinions. He was sure that the aged men of the Conference would ever receive sound opinions and right reasoning, from any man, whether old or young.

The PRESIDENT observed, that all that was correct, but Mr. Rowland's

remark was not applicable to Mr. Barton. He was not a young man; he was a member of the hundred, and had served the Conference many years as one of its Sub-Secretaries, and in various offices.

Mr. BARTON said no man had a more yearning feeling towards Mr. Rowland than himself, and he had only mentioned the alternative which he saw the Conference would be obliged to adopt.

Mr. FOWLER inquired, Did he understand Mr. Rowland to say that every man who took a part in the proceedings of the last Conference against certain persons then expelled ought to "do the penitent?" ("Yes, yes.") What did Mr. Rowland really mean? Was each brother to do it individually, or was the Conference to do it?

Mr. ROWLAND considered he had made the *amende honorable* in what he had previously said to the Conference as to the offensive expression to which Mr. Fowler alluded. What he meant to say was that, before the shepherds went to work to condemn the flock, they themselves ought to repent—he meant for the proceedings of the last Conference in the expulsion of those men.

Mr. FOWLER pointed out to Mr. Rowland that he was requiring an impossibility. Could the Conference say it had done wrong in expelling men who were doing all in their power to injure the body? If the Conference were what those men represented it to be, they ought to be thankful that they had been freed from it. He trusted that Mr. Rowland would say that he had regretted using such expressions, because they reflected on the acts of the Conference. They could not have peace if such things were allowed. No man regretted more than he (Mr. Fowler) that Mr. Rowland should have placed himself in so ridiculous a position.

Mr. LOUTIT considered that Mr. Rowland ought to "do the penitent" himself, inasmuch as he had voted for the expulsion of those parties last year.

Mr. ROWLAND replied that he had done "the penitent."

Mr. ATHERTON would submit whether the Conference was trying Mr. Rowland, or Mr. Rowland was trying the Conference.

Mr. S. D. WADDY said that there had been an attempt made to lay blame upon him for moving the resolutions on Mr. Rowland's case. He did move the first, and he concurred in the others; but he had a conviction that the sentence on Mr. Rowland was made to appear more severe by the leniency of the sentence passed on another member of the Conference. It seemed to him (Mr. Waddy) that Mr. Rowland would not make the apology which was required. He was pledged to another party too strongly and too deeply for reasons which some present knew. He hoped the Conference would put an end to the matter in one way or another. Everything had been done that could be done to save Mr. Rowland, and Conference was bound to maintain its own dignity and authority.

Mr. ROWLAND demanded on what authority Mr. Waddy had made the statement that he (Mr. Rowland) was pledged to another party? He was utterly ignorant of it.

Mr. WADDY replied, that all Mr. Rowland's proceedings showed he was pledged.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that it was unnecessary that he should repent the remarks which he had made when the resolutions in that matter had been brought forward last week. As he disapproved of those resolutions, he of course disapproved of that attempt to carry one of them out, for such reasons, on such grounds. But as to degree, that measure was, of course,

far more open to objection than the former one, as it was more severe to a great and shocking amount. He could not approve of any method of carrying out any resolutions so objectionable in themselves as those in Mr. Rowland's case were, but extreme was his animosity to so hardy and severe a measure as was then proposed. It was a terrible punishment which they proposed to inflict; one sufficient for almost any ministerial crime; and to inflict it for refusing to sacrifice independence to a very objectionable resolution was most unwarrantable and dangerous. He could not too earnestly oppose it, and reminded the Conference of the arguments which he brought forward against the resolutions of last week. He must make a remark upon an inexcusable attack by Mr. Waddy upon Mr. Rowland. He had said that the latter could not, of course, yield to the Conference, as he was pledged elsewhere—bound to another party. That assertion Mr. Rowland had very properly, and he (Dr. Beaumont) was convinced, truly and sincerely denied. And he (Dr. Beaumont) thought it incumbent upon Mr. Waddy to retract his word.

Mr. WADDY was surprised that Dr. Beaumont should venture upon such an observation. It appeared effrontery in him, under the censure of that body, to make such a requirement.

Dr. BEAUMONT had had some idea of the object of the vote to which Mr. Waddy so gratuitously referred, but it required, indeed, the effrontery of Mr. Waddy to venture upon the declaration he had just made.

Mr. WADDY said that any other man in the Conference after receiving such a censure would hold his peace. As to the word "pledged," he had no objection to substitute for it the word "committed." What he meant was, that Mr. Rowland was too deeply committed to the party opposed to the Conference to make the apology required.

Mr. OSBORN observed that Mr. Rowland had shown that he was committed to that party. One portion of their complaint related to the expulsion of the three men last year—that Mr. Rowland condemned. Another related to the inviolability of local jurisdiction—that Mr. Rowland sustained. There were other points on which he did not wish to occupy time. The question was whether the Conference was to maintain a universal pastorate by means of district meetings, or whether local courts were to be allowed to do what they pleased?

Mr. ROWLAND alluded to the views expressed by ministers of other denominations. Did it follow that because certain of those ministers had expressed their approval of his views, he was therefore committed to any or all of them? He was committed to no party, but only to his principles.

The PRESIDENT said that a Methodist minister should abide by the judgement of the Conference: that should be his principle. He ought not to allow the opinions of ministers of other bodies to weigh with him when the question of allegiance to the Conference was concerned.

Dr. BUNTING remarked that the fact just brought out was at variance with Mr. Rowland's statement. There were no doubt ministers in other denominations who expressed their opposition to the decision of the Conference; but they were not men who possessed the greatest weight in general estimation. Dr. Bunting then referred to some earlier circumstances in Mr. Rowland's career, and to the desire he had cherished to preserve him from the consequences of his recent acts; but after what had transpired that evening he must put that away. He thought the Conference must now come to a decision, and he was sorry for it; but there was no use in reasoning with a man who would not be convinced.

If Mr. Rowland had as he had said made an apology on Saturday, and would not now repeat it, he was not acting an honourable and upright part.

Mr. WHEAT had felt much respect for Mr. Rowland as his first superintendent, and was sorry he had placed himself in a false position. He should be glad to induce Mr. Rowland if possible to make an apology. He could not defend Mr. Rowland's conduct; but he could and did entreat him to comply with the desires of his brethren.

Mr. Rowland still remaining unmoved,

Dr. BUNTING moved that it was the opinion of the Conference, that while Mr. Rowland held his present principles he ought not to be allowed to take a circuit; that he be advised to retire as a supernumerary; and that three ministers who might reside near the place of his location should be selected and instructed to hold intercourse with him during the year, and endeavour to bring him to a better mind.

Mr. SAMUEL TINDALL stated some circumstances to show that Mr. Rowland was in some degree committed to the agitating party, and was under some obligations to the family of one of the leading agitators.

Dr. NEWTON said he had long been the friend of Mr. Rowland, and mentioned some circumstances in support of the statement, but after all that had transpired he had lost the hope of Mr. Rowland coming at present to a better mind; and he felt compelled, contrary to all he hoped for, to second the resolution. He then adverted to an interview he had had with Mr. Rowland in Stockport, when Mr. Rowland said that forbearance towards certain parties was not advisable; they must pursue another course and vindicate their principles.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that as it fell to his lot, on their adopting the resolutions on Mr. Rowland's case, to declare his opinion that they were too severe, it equally devolved on him now to say that as Mr. Rowland felt himself shut up to the course he had pursued, he (Dr. Beaumont) could not vote for the resolutions now proposed.

Mr. EDWARD WALKER said that he could, and one reason was that a principle of morality was as he thought involved in what Mr. Rowland had said. It intimated something like a feeling of revenge. He had in fact said, "I won't do this because the Conference has treated me severely." If that was morality he (Mr. Walker) had yet to learn it.

The PRESIDENT then put the resolution to the Conference, when it was unanimously adopted, with the exception of two votes.

The PRESIDENT observed that he had great pain in communicating to Mr. Rowland the decision to which the Conference had come, but the course he had pursued had rendered it unavoidable. It was then resolved that Mr. Rowland should be required to remove from Norfolk, where his proceedings had promoted the agitation of the society.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15.

MR. BROMLEY'S CASE.

The committee appointed to consider Mr. Bromley's case brought in their report, recommending that he should have permission to appear before it, to offer any reason he thought proper in extenuation of or apology for his proceedings. This recommendation was adopted, and notice was given accordingly to Mr. Bromley.

The Conference was chiefly occupied during the day in considering the stations for the next year. In the course of the business several minis-

ters who had not exercised discipline upon offenders were interrogated respecting their intentions for the future.

Dr. BEAUMONT, in particular, said that he considered the direction of the Conference his rule, his only rule in the exercise of discipline, and should feel himself bound to carry it out. Every man who did not walk in the grooves marked out for him by the Conference ought to retire. He had differences of opinion with many of his brethren, but had no difference with them in principle. As to what he should do in particular cases which might arise he could not say; but "the ministerial power as exercised by any members of the Conference must be brought into harmony with the will of the Conference."

THE HOLT CIRCUIT.

A conversation arose respecting a letter addressed by two individuals representing themselves to be stewards of this circuit, informing the minister appointed there that there would be neither house nor quarterage for him unless certain alleged grievances were redressed.

Mr. BUDDEN was ordered to start forthwith to Norwich, take a gig there for Holt, take possession of the house, and hand it over to his successor. He asked as to his expenses.

Dr. BUNTING said he would get them from where he would have done had he gone back in due course.

Mr. BUDDEN said he had not intended to go back at all.

Dr. BUNTING—Mr. Budden is not fit for a superintendent.

Mr. BUDDEN—I shall be very glad to be released from being so.

Dr. BEAUMONT thought if Mr. Budden were sent on any such errand he must certainly get his expenses from the contingent fund.

Mr. CORBETT COOKE observed that Dr. Beaumont had more influence at Holt than any other preacher, and he should be sent with Mr. Budden to procure admission to the preacher's house.

Dr. BEAUMONT did not expect that they (the members of Conference) would find him going after a key for anybody,—not even for Mr. Cooke.

Mr. Budden was accordingly despatched, at the charge of the contingent fund; but before going, a preacher desired to ask him a few more questions as to his past conduct in Holt.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that should not be allowed. Mr. Budden had fully and fairly met whatever was said when his character was before the Conference; and the attack must not be repeated.

Dr. BUNTING—We have a right to ask questions as long as we sit.

Dr. BEAUMONT—So I know you say; but it is an unfair and improper thing, when a man has been released once, to put him to the question again; unless, indeed, upon some newly arisen matter.

Mr. Budden (who had asked for a companion as witness, but was refused) was then permitted to go on his errand.

MR. MACDONALD.

On the appointment of Mr. Macdonald being read, he observed that he had been waiting for an opportunity to state the circumstances in which he had been placed during the past year.

Dr. BUNTING—Very good. There is a *prima facie* case for asking the question. The proprietor of a certain newspaper, remarkable for its weekly columns of slander, has been permitted to continue a member and leader in Mr. Macdonald's circuit: that is a case patent to the whole connexion.

Mr. MACDONALD—Whether he could explain his proceedings to the satisfaction of the Conference, he could not say, but he could give some statements to show that he had acted with prudence and discretion, and, perhaps, he might add, as well as any other man in similar circumstances could have done. He had an ardent attachment to the doctrines and discipline of the body. In Birmingham, or any where else, he should support that discipline to the best of his judgement, and be amenable to his brethren. [Mr. Macdonald then entered into a lengthened statement in reference to the complaint forwarded to him by Mr. Thomas, and then proceeded as follows:—] I have now, sir, finished that part of my case, so far as Mr. Thomas is involved in it. The letters which I have read to you, and especially the letter to Mr. Kaye, conveying in such strong terms, reproof and censure, express my judgement as to the character of the *Wesleyan Times*, and the unjustifiable conduct of the proprietor, as a member of our society. I have never entertained for a moment a different opinion on that subject. The argument is unanswerable, that if the editor, being only a functionary and subordinate, deserved to be put on his trial, *a fortiori*, the proprietor of the paper did so, also. The question with me, therefore, was, is it probable—is it possible—to obtain a conviction against him in our ordinary law process; and if not, is the case such, that under local circumstances, and the circumstances of the connexion generally, is it desirable or prudent, that an appeal should be made to a minor district meeting? No one who knows the state of Huddersfield can imagine for a moment, that by any plainness or ingenuity of drawing up an indictment, I had the remotest chance of obtaining a verdict. I had then to look carefully and thoughtfully at the whole subject. I knew from the temper of the men by whom I was surrounded, and from strong and positive declarations which I heard them make as to the authority of minor district meetings, that any reversal of the decision of the Leaders' meeting by such a court, would have been resisted and despised. It would simply have been a practical impossibility to have carried out such a reversal without all but the annihilation of the Methodist societies in Huddersfield. I had, then, to take this into my consideration. But the question before me involved considerations which weighed far more heavily on my mind than any results which might be supposed to affect Huddersfield exclusively. I had to look at the subject in its probable influence on the connexion at a time of most extraordinary excitement, and I had especially to consider the effect which it would have in the West Riding of Yorkshire. One seventh of the entire number of Methodists in Great Britain, are to be found in the Leeds, Halifax, and Sheffield Districts. I found a very large proportion of those members in a state of feverish excitement. Most unscrupulous means had been employed to excite their prejudice, and to alienate their affections from us. All sober reasoning seemed utterly thrown away upon them,—the wildest reports, the most unfounded stories, were circulated and credited. I considered it to be "the hour of temptation" which had "come upon" them. Many were in a paroxysm, which rendered it impossible for them to appreciate reason and facts which were opposed to them. I felt satisfied in the midst of all this excitement, that in a short time such ebullitions of passion would subside, and the whole matter resolve itself into some tangible principles, which might be carefully examined, discussed, and finally settled. Among those who were more or less uneasy or excited, I knew that great diversity of opinion prevailed as to the *Wesleyan Times*. Many—the ignorant and the ultra-democratical—swallowed

the enormous misstatements or falsehoods, which have so frequently appeared in its pages, and thoroughly digested them, to the immense injury of their moral constitution. With great difference of judgement as to the merits of the paper, both agreed in this, that as certain important questions were now agitated in Methodism, the *Wesleyan Times* was the only medium as a public journal, through which one class of opinions could be advanced and defended. I saw, then, at once, that however clearly stated might be the verdict and sentence against the proprietor, as having equally violated the laws of the New Testament and of Methodism, the impression made on masses of unreasonable and excited minds would be that the design was to punish a man who had dared to advocate certain views on church government, and to suppress if possible his paper. It became then to me a serious question whether the aggravation of public excitement arising from such a cause, however utterly false and unfounded, would not be an evil far exceeding in amount any good which might possibly arise from inflicting the sentence of expulsion. I had to consider whether such a course, at that time and under those circumstances, would not greatly complicate the difficulty of any future pacification. And such was my judgement. I knew that this Conference must come to some decision on questions now greatly agitating many minds; and my conviction is, that we shall be able to contend on questions of principle, in all instances most advantageously, where men's minds have not been previously armed against us by the introduction of extraneous elements into this controversy. My defence, then, lies in a narrow compass. I have no sympathy with the spirit, temper, and general tendency of the *Wesleyan Times*. I believe that the proprietor of it, as professedly a Wesleyan, is amenable to church discipline as awarded by the laws of the New Testament. I felt myself unable to succeed in common law against him—the reasons and facts which I have stated induced me not to hazard the consequences I felt certain would result from the interference of a court of appeal. I have entered my protest to Mr. Kaye both by letter and *visa voce*, against the unchristian temper and conduct of the *Wesleyan Times*. The position which I have taken in this affair can only be defended by the exigency of the circumstances in which I have been placed. You have no parallel instance which can be adduced. It is altogether *sui generis*, and must in equity be so considered.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that he had listened to Mr. Macdonald with great interest, but while so doing a thrill of astonishment pervaded him that Mr. Macdonald should have been the man to move, on the previous Saturday, that he (Dr. Beaumont) deserved the disapprobation of Conference. Would Mr. Macdonald approve of his (Dr. Beaumont's) moving such a resolution in this case? Yet was it not fully as much deserved? He repeated that he had listened with great interest to Mr. Macdonald's account; but if he really believed his amendment of Saturday—that is, if he had felt his own conduct to be improper, how much more just would have been such a course on his (Dr. Beaumont's) part than on Mr. Macdonald's! After Mr. Macdonald's case had been decided, Dr. Beaumont said that with regard to Mr. Thomas, who had shown great admiration for discipline at that Conference, he must say he could not approve of the manner in which he had written to a journalist, stating that he owed no man anything in a certain place, on the very day on which he despatched post-office orders to satisfy debts there. Putting aside sincerity, supposing these orders had miscarried, how would it have been then?

Mr. J. W. THOMAS said he had not commenced proceedings against the proprietor of the *Wesleyan Times* on personal grounds merely, or chiefly, but on public ones. He had seen that there was no man who brought Mr. Kaye to account for the general conduct of his paper; and he saw this with surprise. He therefore thought it right to do something in a particular case. A correspondence took place on the subject of the libels complained of, with the view of obtaining a retraction. Mr. Kaye admitted to Mr. Macdonald that he (Mr. Thomas) was entitled to a complete retraction, and promised that such a retraction should appear in the columns of the *Wesleyan Times*. He repeated that promise, expressed indignation at the rebellion of the editor in refusing to insert what he had sent, and said he would go up to London and insist on its insertion. He (Mr. Thomas,) however, was not sanguine in his expectation that these promises would be fulfilled. Accordingly Mr. Kaye at length, in violation of them, and on the most frivolous pretext, refused him that justice, and compelled him to prefer a formal charge. He had been struck with the contrast between the treatment of the proprietor and that of the editor of the *Wesleyan Times* by their respective pastors. In the case of the editor, Wesleyan discipline had been enforced, and the honour of the Connexion vindicated. This had been done manfully and magnanimously. His pastor had not shrunk from the responsibility of accusation, and had taken care that conviction should be followed by judgement. But the treatment of the proprietor had been very different. The wealthy employer, the wholesale merchant of slander, had been permitted to escape. Why did not Mr. Macdonald, as his pastor, originate such a proceeding as would have purged the Connexion from the flagrant wrong and foul disgrace of having such a member in its communion. Mr. Macdonald had entered into a lengthened narrative, in which he (Mr. Thomas) would not follow his example: but he would merely remark on a few principal points of the case. He complained that Mr. Macdonald had allowed evidence to be taken against him in his absence, on anonymous authority, and totally irrelevant to the charge and the offence; that he had adjourned the meeting, and given Mr. Kaye an opportunity of visiting his (Mr. Thomas's) last circuit for the purpose of seeking for evidence against him. That his character had stood the test of such an inquisition, he considered a real though unintentional tribute. Mr. Kaye made use of certain statements which he had obtained to prejudice him both in the leaders' meeting at Mold Green and in the district meeting. He had also made use of a document which purported to be the "evidence" of the postmaster at Leighton, which, though it proved nothing but the truth of his (Mr. Thomas's) statements, he had ascertained to be a forgery, and the information it contained had been obtained from the postmaster on false pretences. The charges which had been entertained against him (Mr. T.) by the Mold Green leaders, were, 1st, that he had asserted a letter written respecting him from Leighton, and communicated to him by the editor of the *Wesleyan Times*, without the writer's name, to be utterly false; although his Leighton tradesmen had stated the same thing in much stronger language. (Here Mr. Thomas read an extract from a letter entitled "Fly Sheet Manufacture and Intimidation," in the *Watchman* of Oct. 24.) Mr. Macdonald, at the district meeting, said, "This letter no longer exists." Why was it destroyed? The other charge was a criticism upon a word. He (Mr. Thomas) had said, in reply to what Mr. Harrison called "a damaging fly sheet," "I owe nothing to any

tradesman in Leighton, and as you state that the letter of a Wesleyan is authenticated, I must request that you will communicate his name to me, that I may enquire of him to what tradesman he refers," &c. In relating this in the *Watchman*, a month afterwards, he had changed the tense, and stated that he informed Mr. Harrison, by return of post, that he "owed nothing to any tradesman in Leighton," &c. This the Mold Green Leaders, under the tuition of Mr. Kaye or Mr. Macdonald, had charged on him as a falsehood. He never meant to say that he never owed anything for a week, a month, or a quarter of a year, and the two accounts referred to were not of much longer standing. How well qualified the Mold Green leaders, who acquitted Mr. Kaye and condemned him, were for the task of verbal criticism, appeared from the copy of charges which he (Mr. Thomas) had received from them, in which there were nearly as many blunders as lines! Why, they could neither spell "Wesleyan" correctly nor the name of the place where they resided! "In short," said Mr. Thomas, "I stand upon the truth of all that I have written; and I complain that when, in the decision of the Huddersfield district meeting, Mr. Kaye had been guilty of so false and injurious a libel, he was allowed by Mr. Macdonald to retain his membership and office, and in the character of a Wesleyan leader to reiterate the offence by repeating the libel, with aggravations and additions." Mr. Macdonald had not, indeed, suffered him to escape uncensured; he had inflicted on Mr. Kaye, in dismissing the case, a long homily on evil speaking. But his sword, though like that of Harmodius, wrapped up in flowers, was without a point. The affair, however, as far as he (Mr. Thomas) was concerned, was of minor importance. It was a public wrong; and as for every wrong there is a remedy, he confidently believed that the wisdom of the Conference would discover a remedy for this wrong, and that its justice would apply it.

Dr. Beaumont, into whose circuit it appears Mr. Kaye has removed, was asked whether he was now a member. Dr. Beaumont said that he had received a note of removal with regard to him from Mr. Macdonald, but he had not seen him, and could not say whether he was in class or not. He thought that, if any further acts of discipline were to be used towards him, considering what had already been done, that Mr. Macdonald ought to receive a commission from the Conference to perform them.

It was after nine o'clock when this case was ended, on which there was no censure, but merely a requirement that strict discipline should be enforced.

EXPULSION OF MR. BROMLEY.

The committee on Mr. Bromley's case reported that when they assembled at four o'clock, Mr. Bromley delivered a letter, declining to appear before the committee, and saying that he had nothing to offer in extenuation, apology, or retraction, in reference to his proceedings. The committee considered the Conference had no alternative but to separate Mr. Bromley from his connexion with it as a minister. The following is the correspondence which took place on the subject:--

"Wesleyan Conference, August 15th, 1850.

"DEAR BROTHER,—I am directed by the President of the Conference to inform you that the committee appointed to consider your case has recommended to the Conference,—‘That the report of the proceedings of

the special district meeting in the case be received and confirmed,' and that the Conference has adopted that recommendation. And further, the Conference having directed the committee, previously to its offering any recommendation as to ulterior disciplinary proceedings, to hear anything you may have to say by way of extenuation, apology, or retraction, I am directed to inform you that the committee will be prepared to meet you for that purpose at four o'clock *this afternoon*, in the Morning Chapel, City-road.—I am, dear brother, in behalf of the President, yours, truly,
 JON. CROWTHER.

Rev. Jas. Bromley, Palatine House,
 Stoke Newington.

An answer by the bearer is respectfully requested."

" TO THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE NOW ASSEMBLED.

" MEN AND BRETHREN,—I have nothing to say in '*extenuation, apology, or retraction*.' In DEFENCE, I have a great deal to say, which you, disregarding all the claims of justice and all the dictates of humanity, have refused to hear. What unintelligent and hideous domination is this, which has condemned me unheard, and then asks me for '*extenuation, apology, or retraction*.'

I denounce the district meeting which assembled in Bath, on Wednesday, the 13th of February last, as an illegal assembly, and the sentence of *suspension* which it pronounced on me as '*INTENSELY illegal*.' Its meeting and its sentence were in immediate contravention of the 5th Article, under the head '*Conference discipline*,' in the articles of Pacification, which article enacts expressly, 'That no preacher shall be *suspended* or removed from his circuit by ANY district committee, except he have the PRIVILEGE of the trial before mentioned,'—i. e., a trial by a *mixed court*—which *privilege* I claimed.

The expurgation *ex officio*—the propounding of questions with a view to self-crimination or self-exculpation, *under penalty*—the production of charges in the form of interrogatories in Conference, district meetings, or other courts, without previous personal complaint and social expostulation, as authorized by the law, at p. 112 of the minutes for 1835, and as now maintained and practised by the Conference, I religiously regard as an infidel and impudent rejection of the authority of the Son of God, and believe that a more obvious contravention of our standard writings could not be. And furthermore, I sincerely and prayerfully believe, that the men who originate and maintain this *innovation* upon our ancient discipline, are in this part of their conduct '*enemies to the cross of Christ*.'

I am of opinion that if the Conference, instead of seeking its own power and aggrandizement, would seek the glory of God and the good of his people, it would, with the least possible delay, repeal the execrable enactment at page 112 of the minutes for 1835, and would endeavour to find some other remedy for the evils which threaten its existence, than *wide-spread, untiring, and unrelenting excisions*.

The evidence of my sincerity in the testimony I thus bear, is my willingness to suffer any penalty the Conference has in its power to inflict, rather than pollute my conscience and dishonour my name by tendering *extenuation, apology, or retraction*, at a time and in a case where the causeless, heartless injury and oppression, in connexion with this subject, I have so very long endured, call for mingled astonish-

ment, indignation, and grief.—I am, men, and brethren, your faithful and affectionate, but deeply-injured brother,

JAMES BROMLEY.

Palatine House, Stoke Newington, London, August 15, 1850."

Dr. BUNTING proposed that instead of the word expulsion, the terms "shall cease to be a minister amongst us," should be used. This was agreed to.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that he considered that it would be extremely unseemly in the Conference at that late hour of the night to enter upon a case so full of importance and solemnity as this was made, by the course which had been and which was proposed to be pursued. It was then already half an hour beyond the ordinary limit of their sitting; the assembly was in a most disordered state; members dropping off one after another; those who remained were evidently fatigued; he for his part was wearied and harrassed, and felt deeply the solemnity of considering such a report and such recommendations as were now before the Conference. It was a weighty and an awful matter which was to be brought before them; it required the most solemn and profound attention; and he accordingly was most unwilling to entertain it and still more so to speak to it on that evening. He therefore proposed that the consideration of the report of the committee which had considered Mr. Bromley's case should as a measure of imperative justice be postponed till the morning.

It was ultimately decided that the matter should be proceeded with.

Mr. S. D. WADDY said he should be happy to move the resolution recommended by the committee; but when he considered the standing of Mr. Bromley he felt that a father in the connexion ought to deal the blow.

Mr. NAYLOR rose and moved that Mr. Bromley having resisted the legal district meetings in general; having refused to appear before that summoned at Bath to adjudge his case; having violated pledges given to the last Conference; and having written a letter that day to the president, indecent and unbecoming in tone and contumacious in spirit, *should be expelled from the Wesleyan body.*

Mr. CORBETT COOKE seconded the resolution, saying that he considered Mr. Bromley had been a very injurious man in the connexion, whatever good qualities he might have.

Mr. SCOTT could cordially support the resolution, thinking it requisite to show that the Conference and the district meetings must not be set at naught.

Dr. BEAUMONT then rose, and regretted that the Conference had persisted in proposing so momentous a resolution, at such an hour more especially. He felt the solemnity of the occasion extremely: he shrank from the consideration of such a proposal as was before the house; but as a member of that Conference, as a minister of the gospel of peace, as a Christian man, he could not be a party to that matter either as opponent or supporter without declaring his opinions. He should feel silence an inexcusable neglect of duty. He had three grounds for most strenuously opposing the resolution before the house. First, It mentioned Mr. Bromley's conscientious opinions upon district meetings and the law of 1835 as a ground for the severe course proposed. This he thought was an untenable and invalid ground. For many years it had been well known that Mr. Bromley repudiated and persisted in repudiating the

resolutions of 1835. He was allowed to do so year after year in private, in district meetings, in Conference, and in print; and now, after fifteen years permission of that course, after fifteen years liberty had been allowed, after for fifteen years he had been allowed to fortify himself with the permission of the Conference and the right of habit, were those permitted acts and feelings to be brought forward as a ground for ministerial and Methodist death with decency and justice? How could they with consistency act thus: punishing in the most awful and solemn manner in which it was their power to do, so esteemed and devoted and aged a minister of Christ, in contradiction and condemnation of their permission of years? If this was just, how culpably negligent must have been their former conduct. Secondly, As to Mr. Bromley's refusal to attend the Minor District Meeting at Bath, the considerations he had already urged came again into force here, and above and beyond these considerations, weighty and conclusive as they appeared to him to be, he remembered, and he called upon them to remember, the punishment which Mr. Bromley had already suffered—the anxiety of mind, the degradation of position, the deprivation of that most precious trust—the preaching of Christ's gospel: this surely was enough and far more than enough for such an error of judgement. It was an awful penalty to be put out of the pulpit, to be debarred from the exercise of the ministerial office even for a week. How much more for months! How fearful ever! Thirdly, As to the tone of Mr. Bromley's communication; doubtless it was not perfectly humble, nor perfectly moderate. Could it be expected to be so? Had they deserved that it should be so? Had Mr. Bromley been treated in a manner to warrant the Conference in claiming his full respect and consideration? Must he not have become excited under the torture to which he had been subjected? After months of punishment, anxious and painful as they must have been, he had been treated by that house very carelessly, very harshly, very inconsiderately. When his appeal was ungraciously denied, he had not been informed of the decision for days, each of which must have been wiredrawn by the heat of his anxiety, and then had not been informed of it, he (Dr. Beaumont) feared, in a fitting manner. After a fortnight's suspense, so perilous and harrowing, it surely was not to be wondered at, or severely reprobated, if the sorrow of such a period had made Mr. Bromley exhibit somewhat of wayward feeling, even more than in that letter he had done. Such was the natural consequence of the ordeal through which he had passed. That letter was a most unfitting and unsubstantial ground for so severe a course as that proposed. He could not, then, find himself justified in supporting such a resolution as was before them, and he entreated his brethren not to do so. Dr. Bunting had, indeed, said something about inserting a periphrasis for *expelled*—something about *separated from his brethren*. The Conference itself revolts from the awful word "expulsion," with horror. But let them not deceive themselves, they were aware that the effect would be the same. Their act would be expulsion still—would have all the melancholy and terrible effects of that melancholy and terrible act. They would, by acting on Dr. Bunting's suggestion, only be deceiving themselves. He (Dr. Beaumont) then had but one course for himself to take. Had any milder method been taken with Mr. Bromley, it would, of course, have depended upon its peculiar nature, whether he (Dr. B.) would have sought to modify it by amendment, or have supported or opposed it; but as it was he could not, in any way, be a party to the resolution; the consequences must lie elsewhere than on him; and he accordingly must vote against it.

Dr. BUNTING--Dr. Beaumont had said that the Conference had acquiesced in Mr. Bromley's conduct as to the laws of 1835. This was quite a misrepresentation. More especially, some years ago, the Conference decided that Mr. Bromley's annual protest should not again be received by the district meeting.

Dr. BEAUMONT admitted this fact, but that did not alter the case. The Conference had, through a series of years, acted up to a certain point, and never beyond that, and accordingly it acquiesced in Mr. Bromley's conduct thus far--that it waived any further proceedings against him, and yet it was proposed of a sudden to go all lengths with him.

Dr. BUNTING observed that Dr. Beaumont had taken up three grounds in favour of Mr. Bromley. There was, however, a fourth recital in the resolution, and that Dr. Beaumont had left untouched. He referred to Mr. Bromley's having violated the pledges which he gave to the last Conference.

Dr. BEAUMONT--I could not imagine that such an assertion could be put forward as an actual ground for the supposed act. I know that it is often made, but I want to see it proved. I cannot condemn a man unheard; how much less can I sentence him? I call upon you not to take such a responsibility upon you. It is alleged that Mr. Bromley bound himself not to agitate against the law of 1835, and, further, that he has broken that pledge. Taking the pledge and the violation as granted, I protest against his punishment on that ground, until he has been heard in explanation. For anything I know, all these assertions and charges may be susceptible of being completely cleared up by him. He may be able to explain away all suspicion; and until he has failed to do so, I cannot condemn him.

The resolution was then put and carried, with only one hand held up against it. That hand was Dr. Beaumont's.

The **PRESIDENT** then declared Mr. Bromley to be expelled from the body, and the following communication was addressed to him:--

"Wesleyan Conference, August 16, 1850.

"**DEAR BROTHER**,--It is our painful duty to inform you that the committee appointed to consider your case has reported its opinion that your ministerial connexion with the Conference must now of necessity be terminated; and that the Conference, after solemn deliberation, has adopted a resolution to that effect. A more full and formal communication will be prepared and forwarded with as little delay as possible.

We remain, dear brother, on behalf of the Conference,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BEECHAM, President.

JOHN HANNAH, Secretary.

Rev. J. Bromley, Palatine House, Stoke Newington."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16.

The Conference was occupied with the Stations, the revision of which took up nearly the whole day. Mr. Budden was transferred from Ulverstone to Montrose. Dr. Beaumont strongly remonstrated against this. He said they could not with honour or fairness change, behind his back, the destination of a man who had just left them; more particularly when he had been sent by the Conference on an arduous, difficult, and not very worthy duty. He wondered how they could attempt such a change with the man's delicate and fragile appearance fresh in their memory, and

when he had told them of the feeble health of his family. He repeated, that it was a most unworthy attempt, and Mr. Budden's name ought immediately to be replaced against Ulverston.

Dr. BUNTING said that Mr. Budden could not be appointed as superintendent, and therefore if he did not take Montrose, he must be left off the stations till a place could be found for him.

Dr. BEAUMONT said that that would be still worse. It would be most scandalous to batter Mr. Budden about in that manner, more particularly, as he (Dr. B.) had said, in his absence on a most unpleasant errand for the Conference. He must be left at Ulverston until a proper place could be found for him, and then, and not till then, let him be moved.—Mr. Budden's name was therefore again put down for Ulverston.

One other case was of some interest. Mr. George being appointed to Ayr, upon the revision of that arrangement, Dr. BEAUMONT said he had a most painful recollection of the same gentleman having been moved from his last circuit, equally against his own wish and that of the people; and he had moreover a very painful knowledge of the very painful consequences which had arisen out of that act. And yet it was now proposed again to move him, after only one year's residence, from his present circuit, against his own wish and the desire of his flock; and to place him in a circuit like Ayr, remote in position, and poor in every respect. That looked to him (Dr. B.) very much like a punishment! And a punishment for what? Who could tell? Surely the Conference was not going to exercise discipline without alleging any cause.

In the course of the day, a letter was read from Mr. Charles Welch, of Hull, acknowledging the receipt of a letter of thanks addressed to him from the Conference for his pamphlet on the subject of "Lay Delegation." Mr. Welch observed that he felt thankful to Almighty God for three things. First, for a sound Wesleyan parentage. His father's invariable usage was, during the Conference session, specially to commend at the family altar that assembly of ministers to the wisdom and protection of God; and thus, in his earliest childhood, he was taught to respect the highest judicature of the Connexion. Secondly, subsequent reading and mature reflection had confirmed and amplified his confidence in the divine apparatus of Methodism to sustain unimpaired the attacks of enemies, and to accomplish vast and glorious undertakings. Thirdly, most of all, he was humbled to think, amidst the difficulties they were now called on to surmount, perhaps unsurpassed in Christendom, they should condescend thus approvingly to notice his services.

The business of the day was concluded by the election of chairmen of districts and financial secretaries.

LOYAL ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN ON THE BIRTH OF A PRINCE,

A letter was read to the secretary from Sir G. Grey, acknowledging her Majesty's gracious reception of this address.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17.

THE CONFERENCE OF 1851.

Mr. BURT, Chairman of the Newcastle District, introduced this subject. After some conversation, it was agreed that the Conference should be held next year in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the attendance of ministers limited to about three hundred and fifty. A committee was appointed to fix the number that should attend from each district, whose report was subsequently brought in and adopted.

In the course of the day, a letter was read from the Rev. JAMES MATH-
 LAY; mentioning, amongst other subjects, that, in a late number of the
Wesleyan Times, which he designated a notorious and fabricating journal,
 he was represented as a reformer; that he could not but view it as a great
 injury and a flagrant injustice inflicted upon him, and that, as to some of
 his brethren, who were not acquainted with him, it was calculated to lower
 him in their estimation, and wither their confidence in his character; he,
 therefore, begged to assure the Conference that, with the class of persons
 designated reformers of Methodism, he had no sympathy, and of their
 proceedings he felt the utmost abhorrence.

A letter was read from Mr. Budden, in which he reported, that having
 arrived at Holt on the previous day, he found that the key of his former
 home had been handed over to Mr. Colman, who was then in London;
 and on applying to his good lady, he could not persuade her to give him
 the key, she having been desired by her husband to yield it up to no
 one whomsoever, except by his order.

A letter was also read from Mr. Rowland, in which he begged to know
 whether the Conference would permit him to live anywhere—say in any
 of a certain list of places which he named, including Liverpool, Merthyr
 Tydvil, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Manchester, &c., and whether he might
 be permitted to travel out of his circuit, to visit Yarmouth, in case a friend
 should be sick? The Conference decided that he might reside anywhere
 out of Norfolk.

Several official appointments were next made.... The President and
 Secretary, with Dr. Newton, were appointed to attend the next Irish
 Conference.... The President and the Rev. Charles Prest were appointed
 to visit Scotland for the promotion of the missionary cause, and to attend
 the financial district meeting.... The President and Mr. Robert Young
 were appointed to attend the South Wales district meeting, to be held at
 Cardiff next spring.... Dr. Newton and the Rev. Wm. Stamp were ap-
 pointed to attend the North Wales district meeting of 1851.

The committee of privileges was next appointed. An interesting
 conversation arose on several subjects brought under the notice of the
 committee, and suitable suggestions were offered to those gentlemen
 who were placed in circumstances requiring special advice... The
 thanks of the Conference were unanimously voted to James Heald,
 Esq., M.P., for the assiduous employment of his parliamentary influ-
 ence on questions relating to the privileges and interests of the Con-
 nexion.

The Children's Fund Report was presented by the Rev. S. D. Waddy
 and the Rev. G. B. Macdonald, and adopted by the Conference. The
 ratio of 126 members for the support of one child was agreed to.

The Pastoral Address to the Societies was read and adopted, subject
 to the insertion of a passage relating to circuit memorials, when those
 memorials should have been considered by the Conference.

A communication from the officers of the Wesleyan Seamen's Society
 in London was read, and the general feeling of the Conference was that
 the society was worthy of the patronage and support of Wesleyan Me-
 thodists, when appealed to, to support efforts for the spiritual improve-
 ment of British seamen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19.

A letter was read from Mr. George Smith, of Camborne, acknowledging
 the receipt of a resolution of thanks to him for the publication of his

pamphlet entitled, "The Wesleyan Ministers and their Slanderers," expressing his deep sense of the honour the Conference had done him, by that communication, and assuring them that there was no other body of men whose approbation he so highly valued, and whose confidence and esteem afforded him so much real pleasure.

AUXILIARY FUND.

Mr. SCOTT presented the report of the state of this fund, from which it appeared that notwithstanding the efforts made by the agitators to injure it, the deficiency of contributions in the classes as compared with the previous year only amounted to £208 18s. 4d., and the deficiency in the June subscription was still smaller. Nevertheless, in consequence of the number of claimants on the fund and of the insufficiency of the ordinary income to meet the claims presented, it was stated that there was a total deficiency, including the balances of previous years, of about £1,550.

A conversation then took place respecting the best mode of meeting this deficiency. A considerable number of ministers thought it would be well rather to impose an annual contribution of a guinea upon each minister than to allow the claimants on the fund to suffer in consequence of any reduction in their limited allowances. Others expressed their opinion that if the real necessities designed to be met by the fund were more generally known the existing debt would be speedily removed, and a large regular income secured. It was finally determined to postpone any new regulation until next year.

The usual thanks of the Conference were voted to the officers and committee, and their re-appointment passed unanimously.

ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

This address was read by Dr. Hannah, the secretary, after which

Mr. WAUGH was called on to address the Conference. Having thanked them for their kind reception of himself and colleagues as the representatives of the Irish Conference, he expressed his regret that they had not been favoured with greater spiritual prosperity in Ireland. As Methodist ministers the brethren in Ireland were resolved to live and labour together. They were prepared to go with this Conference whether in weal or in woe.

After addresses from Mr. Matthews, Dr. Applebe and others, the answer to the address was read and adopted.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The report of this committee was submitted to the Conference, and after considerable conversation it was agreed that deputations should visit the principal towns and cities of Great Britain, to impart information on the question of day-school education; to raise a sum of £10,000, in the first place, to meet the government grant of £7,000 from the Committee of Council on Education; and in the next place to enable the committee to enter on their great enterprise with confidence. To meet the views of persons willing to subscribe, it was suggested and finally agreed to, that where it was desired subscriptions might be paid in equal instalments, in March 1850, and 1851. It was further unanimously resolved that the committee should put themselves in connection with a person qualified to undertake the duties of principal of the institution, and to be able to name him to the next Conference. Thanks were then accorded to the committee and officers of the institution for their very

efficient and acceptable services during the past year, and at a subsequent sitting suitable appointments were made for the year ensuing.

CIRCUIT MEMORIALS.

The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that the committee appointed to examine, classify, and report upon these memorials, had spent a large portion of time upon them, and had appointed a sub-committee from their number to consider more maturely some of the details of the report to be presented. He would therefore request that the committee should meet again at five o'clock in the afternoon.

DR. DIXON.

The PRESIDENT informed the Conference that Dr. Dixon had received medical advice to return home.

Dr. BUNTING greatly regretted that the state of Dr. Dixon's health rendered that step necessary. He considered it a very untoward circumstance, because he believed that, if an opportunity had been afforded him of having some conversation with his brethren respecting his views, the statements which he (Dr. Bunting) had reason to think Dr. Dixon was prepared to make to the Conference, would have set him right with them and the connexion.

Mr. SCOTT adverted to a conversation he had had with Dr. Dixon, and concurred in the opinion expressed, that had he had an opportunity of freely conversing with the Conference he would have set himself right in their estimation. He hoped that Dr. Dixon would take an early opportunity of doing so. It was very desirable that so excellent a man, who was in the main one with them, should avail himself of such an opportunity.

Dr. BEAUMONT could not in the least comprehend what Dr. Bunting had said about Dr. Dixon. He had been sitting side by side with him for a fortnight, and now, when ill health unfortunately called Dr. Dixon home, Dr. Bunting rose in his absence to complain of his conduct. Such a complaint the Conference could not possibly entertain. To attack a man behind his back, when to his face, whilst he had been daily present for a fortnight, not a word had been said, would pass all bounds of decorum and fairness. It reminded him (Dr. Beaumont) of an occurrence with regard to the same gentleman at the Hull Conference, two years ago, when Dr. Dixon had just returned from America, and was allowed to sit for days in silence, but when he had indignantly left the Conference, he was immediately found fault with. He (Dr. Beaumont) had at that time spoken his sentiments upon that matter, and he trusted he should see no repetition of such a course in this instance.

Dr. NEWTON said that in that case Dr. Dixon had spoken.

Dr. BEAUMONT did not mean to say that he had not spoken, but that he had not been called on by the Conference to speak.

The PRESIDENT said it was perfectly competent for any member of the Conference to express his regret that Dr. Dixon was not present; and it was incorrect, as a matter of fact, for any one to say that Dr. Dixon had not had an opportunity of declaring his sentiments. A week ago he (Dr. Dixon) would have been requested to do so, had not his absence through indisposition prevented it.

Mr. S. D. WADSWORTH observed that he had great respect and affection for Dr. Dixon. He could not hide from his mind the fact that Dr. Dixon's opinions had great weight with the masses of the people.

Mr. WM. BUNTING objected against any remarks on Dr. Dixon's character when there was nothing on record against him.

Dr. BUNTING said nothing could be more in order than what had taken place. It had been agreed, at an early period in the Conference, that certain names should be reserved, and a fit opportunity embraced of having a free conversation with the parties. That had been done, but when Mr. Dixon's name was mentioned he was absent. His absence under existing circumstances could not be held to preclude an observation respecting him.

Mr. WADDY resumed. It would have been very inconsistent in the Conference to look at other names and pass over Dr. Dixon's. The peculiarity of Dr. Dixon's mind was that he did not give himself credit for the amount of influence which his sentiments exerted; still some notice must be taken of his views. He (Mr. Waddy) was particularly indebted to Dr. Dixon for having corrected his own views, at an early period of life, when he was in danger of imbibing ideas which he now saw to be inconsistent with their Connexional principle. Had he fallen into other hands, he knew not what might have been the result. He trusted that Dr. Dixon would take an opportunity of setting himself right with the Conference.

The PRESIDENT observed, that it was necessary that some reference should be made to this case, in accordance with previous agreement; and though, because of Dr. Dixon's illness, it could not be gone into at the proper time, yet to allow it to pass, even now, *sub silentio*, was not in order. Surely the warmest friends of Dr. Dixon could not complain of the tenor of the remarks made. They had all been made in a friendly spirit towards him.

Evening Sitting.

The general resolutions of the Missionary Committee of Review were reported, and the District Missionary Deputations appointed.

The report of the Theological Institution was read and approved. On the vote of thanks to the President (Dr. Bunting) being passed, Dr. Bunting observed, that the services he had rendered were comparatively feeble, but in consequence of the presence of the very able men who were engaged in the two branches of the Institution, these services were rendered the less necessary. He had hoped for relief. Considering his growing feebleness he coveted repose, freedom from all matters not immediately connected with his personal preparation for that eternal world to which he was hastening. He hoped that next year they would be able to supersede the office he held in the Institution. It had, no doubt, been needful at first; but now, with such efficient men as Providence had given them, perhaps it might be dispensed with. He had little hope of attending the next Conference, and had been led to look solemnly on the present one as probably the last that he should attend; yet he should be thankful, if it should please God to give him the privilege, of somewhere meeting his brethren once again.

On the thanks to the governors and tutors being passed, Mr. Thomas Jackson acknowledged the manner in which the Conference had passed the vote, as did Dr. Hannah and Mr. Farrar.

The Book Committee was next appointed. Then the Schools' Committee and the Committees on Chapel Affairs. Also a special committee to consider the entire interests of the Chapel and Education Fund, and to devise some scheme by which both the chapel relief and educational movement might be promoted.

In connection with the nomination of these committees it may be stated that Dr. Buxrington expressed the strong views which he entertained of the great importance of bringing the appointment of such committees before the Conference by the officers of their several departments. There must, he observed, be some kind of nomination after all; but he thought it would be well if the officers of the several departments would consult the lay members of the committees at their meetings as to the nomination for the year of suitable persons; and that thus they might have committees nominated partly by ministers and partly by laymen. After a brief conversation a motion was passed that this course should be adopted.

The report of the Shetland committee was read. It stated that great advantages had already arisen from the visits of Mr. John Stephenson, and that in order to secure and extend those advantages it was highly desirable that such visits should be repeated. With one or two verbal alterations the report was adopted, and Mr. Stephenson was re-appointed to visit Shetland next spring. The thanks of the Conference were unanimously presented to Mr. Stephenson for his kind, patient, assiduous, and faithful attention to the interests of the district.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

The address from the Canadian to the British Conference was read by the Secretary. After which Dr. Alder, who in the event of Dr. Ryerson's public duties preventing him from visiting England at the present time, had been unanimously appointed by the special committee of the Canadian Conference to act as the representative of the Wesleyan church in Canada, proceeded to lay before the Conference various statements illustrative of the present state of Methodism in that portion of the empire; in doing which he regarded it as constituting one of the most fruitful branches of the parent tree; that although scarcely sixty years had passed away since the first Methodist minister first crossed the boundary line which separates western Canada from the neighbouring republic, and the country up to a comparatively recent period was occupied by a thin and scattered population, there were now upwards of 25,000 persons in the Wesleyan societies there, and not less than 100,000 who regularly attend the Wesleyan ministry; that the principal connexional institutions, especially the collegiate and the book room, were in a state of growing prosperity, and that the prospects of future usefulness were most gratifying. Dr. Alder then referred to the results which have followed the measures for union adopted in 1847 and since acted upon, showing that during the last three years peace and prosperity have been enjoyed by the church; in proof of which he referred to the numerical increase and improved financial condition by which the past year had been distinguished. They had now in the missionary department of the work in Canada 46 stations, 62 missionaries, 97 local preachers, 50 chapels, 440 preaching places, 6,129 church members, and 24,060 hearers. After furnishing these statistical details connected with the Indian and domestic missions, Dr. Alder said that he rejoiced to have it in his power to inform the Conference that he had received from Canada a copy of the Model Deed, the outlines of which were prepared during his last visit, for the settlement of the chapels and other property belonging to the Methodist church there, which was framed upon the same principles as the Model Deed in England.

The answer to the Canadian address was then read.

Dr. NEWTON in proposing its adoption expressed his pleasure in perceiving that there was a cordial oneness between the Canadian brethren and themselves. He believed that there was a real and vital union, and that the blessing of God would rest upon it. He had listened with great interest to the observations made by Dr. Alder on Canadian affairs, and had time permitted he should have felt disposed to make some remarks.

Mr. MARSDEN seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Dr. ALDER said that it would have been gratifying to the brethren of the Canadian Conference, and productive of great advantage to their common Methodism, if the Conference could have appointed a suitable person to proceed to the province and preside over the Canadian Conference next year. He was impressed with the desirableness of maintaining the union which had been formed by such a medium of communication; but it being difficult to find a suitable minister who could disengage himself from his ordinary work long enough for that purpose, he would propose that the general superintendent of their missions in that country, the Rev. Enoch Wood, should be appointed to preside at the next Conference.

This proposal having been seconded it was unanimously adopted.

CASES OF APPEAL:

The cases of appeal against the decisions of superintendents in the expulsion of members were eight in number, and were referred by the Conference to a committee. The committee reported that the following was the result of their investigations:—

1. In the case of Thomas Bradley the appeal had been twice heard, and the charges admitted by the accused. The appeal was therefore disallowed.

2. George Firby had forfeited his right of appeal by having in the mean time appealed to the public, and obstructed the due course of law.

3. Mr. Collier.—This was a complaint in the form of a charge, which could not in the first instance be received by the Conference, but must be heard in its proper court. It was referred there accordingly.

4. In the case of Thomas North's appeal, it appeared that while his case was pending he had identified himself with another religious body, and had thus cut himself off from communion with the society.

5. Mr. Jeremiah Beaumont, as in the instance of Mr. Collier, preferred a charge—not an appeal. The case was referred to his Leaders' meeting.

6. Mr. Pritchell's complaint was referred to a hearing by the Revs. Dr. Newton and W. W. Stamp.

7. A protest from several local preachers of North Walsham, complaining of illegal expulsion. The cases were not in a state ripe for appeal, and were therefore referred to the new superintendent, in conjunction with the chairman of the district.

8. The last appeal was from Messrs. Walter and others, against the decision of a minor district meeting. In point of order, the minutes of the minor district meeting had been read in the Conference, and no appeal lodged against it. Moreover the appellants had given neither the superintendent nor the district any notice. The appeal was notwithstanding considered; and while it was regretted that the appellants had placed themselves in such circumstances, there appeared no reason to alter the decision of the minor district meeting.

The final revision of the stations occupied several hours, and at a subsequent period of the day they were confirmed.

TRIALS AT LEADERS' MEETINGS.

The case of persons refusing to plead when brought before leaders' meetings, again occupied the consideration of the Conference, having been postponed at a former sitting, when the stations were brought in for consideration.

After some discussion a declaratory resolution was adopted, to the effect that if the party accused refused either to admit or deny the charge, he was not entitled to demand proof; but his refusal should be considered as an acknowledgement of his offence; and in such cases he should not be entitled to demand proof, unless the superintendent in the exercise of his discretion thought proper to admit of it for the fuller satisfaction of all parties.

THE NUMBERS IN SOCIETY.

The Rev. THOMAS DICKIN presented the following report on this subject:—

District.	On Trial.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.
London	865	25401	—	216
Bedford, &c.	658	11043	250	—
Kent	344	7508	23	—
Norwich, &c.	519	10766	—	511
Oxford	540	6895	85	—
Portsmouth	342	5444	290	—
Guernsey	44	3350	125	—
Devonport	344	7882	418	—
Cornwall	2354	22557	4000	—
Exeter	379	5811	177	—
Bristol	741	12967	679	—
Bath	417	9159	59	—
First South Wales	372	3505	443	—
Second South Wales	358	4869	608	—
North Wales	680	7436	611	—
Birmingham, &c.	1406	19667	1225	—
Macclesfield	824	10057	583	—
Liverpool	585	12197	321	—
Manchester, &c.	813	22399	—	275
Hallifax, &c.	831	18924	—	296
Leeds	602	21495	535	—
Sheffield	958	13902	—	253
Nottingham, &c.	899	17537	—	1641
Lincoln	1202	15171	631	—
Hull	787	16156	429	—
York	317	13999	49	—
Whitby, &c.	746	7712	658	—
Newcastle	576	12295	1253	—
Carlisle	197	4034	136	—
Isle of Man	70	3310	—	164
Edinburgh, &c.	122	2876	—	107
Shetland	41	1223	—	118
	20,093	358,277	13,579	3,576
	Last year	348,274	3,576	
		10,003	10,003	nett increase

In Ireland there had been a nett decrease of 1,114, chiefly occasioned by emigrations: thus showing a nett increase in Great Britain and Ireland of 8,889. On the Foreign Missions an increase was reported of 115, making a total net increase of 9,004. In explanation of the return of numbers on the Mission Stations, it was stated that the Domestic Missions in Western Canada, though included in the returns of the Mission House, were not included in the returns now made to the Conference; otherwise the increase on the Mission Stations would have appeared much more considerable.

The SPECIAL COMMITTEE, recommended by the Committee of the Contingent Fund, was next appointed, and Mr. Jobson announced a list of donations which had already been received, designed to support Methodism in those circuits where agitations had occasioned serious injury to the circuit finances.

CIRCUIT MEMORIALS.

The report of the committee, which had been appointed to consider the memorials presented to the Wesleyan Conference by the Special Circuit Meetings, was brought under the attention of that assembly about eight o'clock in the evening. It stated, that, out of 439 circuits in the connexion, but 66 had memorialized; the memorials from those circuits were more or less numerous signed, sometimes very partially. Upon the whole, the committee did not feel called upon to recommend any steps to be taken in accordance with the desires expressed by the memorialists.

Dr. BEAUMONT observed that he was grieved to find the consideration of so vital a matter as that then before them had been postponed till they were at the very last gasp, when it was actually impossible to give either memorials or report the consideration which they imperatively demanded; when it would be utterly useless to attempt to do justice to the matter, and much more to act upon it in any manner except as had been pre-arranged. He felt convinced that the course followed in the matter of the memorials was an unwise and a dangerous course. With regard to the report, he must remark, that, in the analysis of the memorials presented to the Conference, no notice whatever had been taken of the two most important matters which those memorials contained—viz., the widening the avenues between the Conference and the people, and the opening of the sittings of the Conference to the press. On some of the other measures proposed, he had grave doubts, and was not prepared at once to recommend them as wise or desirable; but upon those points the people themselves were very widely divided. As to the particular measures which he had mentioned, however, he believed the memorials were unanimous, and, moreover, that their feeling was shared by a majority of the people in general. As to the special circuit meetings, they were exclusive, walled-up, narrowed, impracticable meetings. They were unjust, he thought, as well as impolitic, in their constitution; and still more, they aroused a whole army of distrusts, jealousies, and suspicions in the working; and accordingly, they could not but be injurious to the interest, and peace, and prosperity of the body. Whatever would weaken the bond of union, and, by consequence, the church, was very bad. As to the press, he was convinced that the system of reporting which they at present had in that assembly was most mischievous and injurious; and he was convinced, that, were there no call for it from without, it was very necessary for their own peace and usefulness that the press at large should have admission to their meetings. He had mentioned these grave omissions, but he was glad that there were such. Under present circumstances, when nothing could be discussed with effect or justice, he was really glad that on these vital points at least they were not to be hampered by having made any hasty and inconsiderate resolutions. He prayed, that, as well in those deliberations, as in the more satisfactory and careful and liberal discussions which he hoped to see occur amongst them, they would be guided by the gracious Spirit of Wisdom from above, which might lead them into all truth. He invoked the holy and reverend and most wise spirit of their founder, John Wesley, upon the assembly, that it might be animated by the generosity, the justice, the grandeur, the nobility, and the wisdom which marked his conduct.

Mr. W. M. BUNTING had listened with great gratification to Dr. Beaumont. It had afforded him great pleasure to hear that gentleman, the moderation of his sentiments and of his tone, so different from those of a man so extreme and revolutionary as Dr. Beaumont had been represented to be. He (Mr. Bunting) felt that they were dealing with a very weighty and critical state of things, in which error might produce unseen difficulties and dangers, and he thought that it would be well to appoint a committee of the Conference, which should sit through the year and consider the complaints and proposals of the dissatisfied portion of the connexion. He thought such a measure would be wise, and prudent, and right, and might remove all the difficulties in their way.

Mr. WADDY strongly opposed the committee which Mr. Bunting had suggested. He thought it would be extremely unwise, because it would excite expectations which could never be realized. If the Conference thought that the memorials required any answer, they should give it at once, as they were fully competent to do.

Mr. ARTHUR advocated the committee which had been suggested. He thought it would be a most prudent and advantageous course. Many deluded agitators would be detached from the body with which they then were engaged, and would become consistent, sound, and peaceable men. Such a wise measure of conciliation could not fail to do good; and he implored the Conference to appoint a committee.

Mr. STEWARD followed on the same side.

Mr. S. JACKSON said that he had felt more hurt at the suggestion which had been thrown out for a committee than by any of the occurrences of the year. He thought that it would be an unmitigated evil. It would be a triumph to the men who were at present striving to overturn Methodism. And how could they who had subscribed to the Declaration in the course of the year, consent to such a triumph? To do so, would be contradictory to, and inconsistent with, their solemn declaration. Such a thing had never been granted before. In the year 1797 there was no committee appointed; in 1835 the members of Conference considered themselves competent to decide at once, without any committee of the kind proposed, and why should they not do so now? He was most strongly opposed to anything of the kind, and could not oppose it too earnestly. Mr. Jackson concluded by saying, "I implore you not to grant a committee, and I caution and warn you against doing so."

Dr. NEWTON opposed the suggested committee. He was quite sure that many most influential persons were expecting to see decisive action on the part of the Conference, and if it did not act decisively, they would leave the connexion. They would have peace, and they must have peace.

Dr. BUNTING took up the report of the committee, and analyzed the memorials at some length. He objected to their contents *seriatim*. He thought that the resolutions of 1835 should be vigorously supported. It was essential to their prosperity that they should be so. He also strongly objected to being memorialized by juvenile leaders and local preachers, and accordingly he supported the constitution of the special circuit meetings. As to opening Conference, such a measure would completely put a stop to that delightful frankness and brotherly freedom which had so long distinguished that assembly. Why should they have a committee, as had been suggested? Surely there was no necessity for one! He was quite convinced that the large majority of the people were perfectly satisfied with the state of the connexion.

Mr. SCOTT had, in the committee which had reported, been for such

a committee as had been now suggested, but seeing who opposed it would give it up; for what could be the use of a committee unless Drs. Bunting and Newton and Mr. Jackson were upon it?

Mr. NAYLOR must oppose a committee, as he thought that all was right in the Connexion. With reference to what Dr. Beaumont had said, he did not think the doors of Conference needed any widening. Why, in Grosvenor-street, Manchester, there were about 46 persons members of their special meeting. And in Salford he believed there were nearly 60. With regard to the press, indeed, he thought that there was need for improvement. There was a scandalous paper, which ought to be stopped, that gave its columns to the propagating of the most revolutionary and injurious sentiments.

The report of the committee was affirmed, and certain resolutions were then moved, denouncing the agitators, and pledging the Conference to "deal with them," which were adopted.

The following is the substance of the report of the committee:—

"The Conference respectfully acknowledges the receipt of memorials from individuals and special circuit meetings duly constituted, which may be separated into two classes, the one class containing declarations of entire confidence in the constitution and operations of Wesleyan Methodism: the other class conveying various suggestions to the Conference in respect to the proposed alteration of, and intended improvement in, certain departments of the connexional economy and discipline.

In reference to these communications, the Conference thinks it right, in justice to the case, and for the information of parties interested, to state the following particulars:—

That nearly half of the memorials and letters are altogether silent as to serious grievances or complaints, or the suggestion of extensive alteration or improvement: that of the remainder not more than twenty-two propose such organic changes as the Conference cannot entertain, and as the circuit meetings ought not to have adopted, consisting mostly of suggestions concerning the official definition of a circuit quarterly meeting, and the opening of the Conference to the Wesleyan public; that from 373 out of 439 circuits in Great Britain, Conference has not received any memorials; that all the memorials and letters have been carefully examined, and their contents repeatedly and deliberately considered; and that, having deliberated on them, the Conference adopts the following declaratory resolutions:

1. The Conference regards itself bound by the principles set forth in the New Testament, and by the sacred trust transmitted to it by Mr. Wesley and his coadjutors, to maintain the pastoral office in unimpaired integrity, and holds itself bound to uphold the spiritual authority appropriate and necessary to the pastoral office. In accordance with which general resolution the Conference declares, First, That respecting the exercise of discipline through the medium of leaders' meetings, whilst the Conference is resolved to act faithfully upon the rules giving an accused person right of trial before such meeting, and accords to the leaders' meeting the right of judgement as to the sufficiency of the evidence to support the accusation, especially in cases likely to affect the membership and official position of the accused, it will still require its ministers, previous to pronouncing sentence, to consult all proper parties: that, at the same time, the Conference cannot transfer to laymen the ultimate determination of such sentence without transgressing its own convictions of solemn duty, and abandoning a right exclu-

sively appropriated to the pastorate. Secondly, that the proposal contained in some of the memorials to constitute the quarterly meeting a court of final appeal against the sentence of the leaders' meeting is altogether inadmissible; besides other reasons, because, as quarterly meetings are usually constituted, such appeal would be to a meeting partly composed of persons having less claim than the leaders' meeting to a spiritual character, and occupied more on temporal business, and being less likely correctly to determine such appeals.

II. The Conference solemnly resolves to stand by the connexional principle adopted by Mr. Wesley, and since maintained, as being that in which, next to the grace and blessing of the Holy Spirit, the great strength of Wesleyan Methodism lies, for the conservation of its internal purity and order, and for the accomplishment of the great spiritual objects for which it was first brought into existence, and has been hitherto sustained. In the maintenance of this principle the Conference declares that, while freely leaving to united societies the general right which they have hitherto exercised of settling local matters by local authorities, in all cases where that may be done consistently with the interests and laws of the connexion, the Conference feels itself bound to resist any attempts to establish, especially in disciplinary matters, the absolute local independency either of single societies, circuits, or districts. On this ground, apart from previous objections, the proposal to erect any local meetings into courts of final appeal, amounting to a proposal to break up the connexion, and to exchange Wesleyan Methodism for Independency is not merely inadmissible, but, on the part of those seeking to remain in the connexion, inconsistent and absurd.

III. The Conference further declares its unalterable resolution to uphold the authority vested in its district committees, as subordinate and intermediate courts of inquiry and appeal, both for ministers and people, whilst at the same time, to all parties duly respecting that authority, it leaves unfettered the right of an ultimate appeal to the Conference. As to the bearing of this resolution, in cases of discipline, on local officers and private members, the Conference very freely admits the undesirableness of the authority of an extraordinary committee being enforced, except on special occasions, and considers that in the first instance all fairly practicable means should be employed to preclude the necessity of such interposition. But in cases where the result of the leaders' meeting is seriously unsatisfactory either to the superintendent or to the accused, there is an obvious call for the exercise of the appellate jurisdiction of a district committee, as, on the supposition of continued dissatisfaction on either side, there is farther occasion for reference to the appellate jurisdiction of the Conference. And this procedure arises out of the principles of pastoral authority and ecclesiastical order which have been uniformly acted on, and are essential. According to those principles, all matters of local complaint are, if possible, settled by the ordinary local authorities of such circuit, under the direction of the superintendent. The result of this first attempt being unsatisfactory, the aid of the collective pastorate of a minor district meeting, or of the entire district, is called in to do justice to the case, and that assistance failing to give satisfaction to either of the parties, the Conference, as the collective pastorate of the connexion, enquires into the case and pronounces its decision. Such has been and is our practice as a connexion, and to this practice the Conference is resolved to adhere, not only as necessary for the maintenance of connexional discipline, but also as furnishing to the people, as well as to the ministers, the strongest

security they could desire, not otherwise obtainable, against the hazard of their suffering the undue pressure of local prejudice and irritation.

IV. The matters above adverted to being disposed of there still remain some other matters which, though not equally important, the Conference is unwilling to pass over. With respect to the appointment of general connexional committees, the Conference has already taken active part in harmony with some of the suggestions which have been made; the members of those committees having been nominated this year not in a committee appointed for the purpose but in the Conference. And with regard to other points the suggestions of the memorials are so various and conflicting, that it would be difficult to form an estimate as to what should be considered the prevailing opinion amongst the memorialists, and still more difficult to establish the persuasion that the things suggested are very generally or extensively claimed. Even were it otherwise, the Conference submits to the consideration of their memorialists whether a time of agitation be the most fitting for making any alterations in our ecclesiastical economy, and whether it is not safer and more becoming that these and similar matters should be dealt with when all parties are more favourably circumstanced for arriving at sound practical conclusions. It will surely be allowed by the memorialists that none of the points which may be admitted to be open for discussion, nor all of them, are of sufficient importance to justify their being made occasion for strife and debate, or a subject of serious and urgent demand. The law of peace and godly order is infinitely more important than any of the points which the memorialists seek to secure. Besides, the most important of these points have already been canvassed in one of the largest assemblies and laymen that has ever been held in our body on the general affairs of our connexion,—the meeting held at Sheffield before the Conference of 1835; and there appears no reason sufficient to disturb at present the general conclusions then adopted. If there be any other points in the memorials which have not been so settled, they will be regarded by the Conference as still open for consideration, and whatever may be found in them ultimately likely to accomplish any useful and important object will be readily adopted.

THE CLOSING PROCEEDINGS.

The very cordial thanks of the Conference were passed to those friends who had so hospitably entertained the ministers during the sittings of the Conference—to the ministers of the London circuits, for their attention to the arrangements connected with it,—and to Mr. Beech, as leader of the singing at the Conference sittings.

Mr. F. A. WEST presented the report of a committee of the last Conference appointed to prepare a form of proceedings for the better transaction of the business of district meetings. After a short conversation, the matter was re-committed, with instructions to print it, and supply the officers of districts therewith.

Mr. JOHN FARRAR next proceeded to read the Journal; at the close of which the several acts of the Canadian Conference, the Irish Conference, and the British Conference, were duly acknowledged and confirmed by the votes of the legal Hundred. The Journal was signed by the President and the Secretary at half-past ten o'clock.

The hymn on page 497 was sung, Mr. SCOTT and Mr. S. JACKSON engaged in prayer, and the PRESIDENT pronounced the benediction, a few minutes before eleven o'clock.

STATIONS OF THE PREACHERS.

(Official Copy.)

JOHN BEECHAM, D.D., PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE.

[N.B.—Each of the places mentioned in these stations is the head of a circuit. The superintendent and other minister or ministers stationed in or appointed to the several circuits undermentioned, is and are appointed by the Conference to preach, and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline, in each and every of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected, within each circuit respectively, within the space of twelve calendar months, at such time or times and in such manner as to him or them shall seem proper; subject nevertheless to the superintendent minister.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

I.—THE LONDON DISTRICT.

John Beecham, D.D. (President of the Conference), Chairman.—Frederick J. Jobson, Financial Secretary.

First London (City-road, &c.)—Joseph Fowler, Joseph Hargreaves, Thomas Pennington, F. J. Jobson, J. G. Wilson, James Allen, 3rd; Joseph Fielden, William Brocklehurst, supernumeraries. George Cubitt and W. L. Thornton, M.A., editors; John Mason, book steward. Jabez Bunting, D.D., Robert Alder, D.D., and Elijah Hoole, are the general secretaries of our missions; John Hebb, president's assistant; Samuel Young, superintendent, under the direction of the Missionary Committee, of the Irish Missions and Schools.

Wesleyan Theological Institution—Dr. Bunting, president of the institution. Southern branch, Richmond—Thomas Jackson, theological tutor; Samuel Jackson, house governor; John Farrar, classical tutor; John D. Geden, assistant tutor. Northern branch, Didsbury—John Bowers, house governor; John Hannah, D.D., secretary of the Conference, theological tutor; J. Crowther, classical tutor; Benjamin Hellier, assistant tutor.

Uxbridge—David Barley, who shall act under the direction of the house governor at Richmond.

Second London (Great Queen-street, &c.)—John Lomas, George Maunder, William Arthur; Robert Wood, Joseph Walker, supernumeraries.

Third London (Spitalfields, &c.)—Peter McOwan, Joseph Stinson, W. O. Booth, Theo. Woolmer; James Baker, supernumerary. Thames Misson—W. A. Quick, who shall change once on each Sabbath with the ministers of the Third London circuit.

Fourth London (Southwark, &c.)—John Rigg, Willson Brailsford, James Wheeler; James H. Rigg, supernumerary.

Fifth London (Lambeth, &c.)—John Hall, David Hay, Thomas Nightingale, Luke Tyerman; Thomas Key, supernumerary.

Sixth London (Hinde-street, &c.)—Joseph Beaumont, M.D., Alexander Strachan, John Nelson, 1st, Daniel West; Joseph Sutcliffe, A.M., Joseph Lewis, William M. Bunting, John C. Leppington, supers.

Seventh London (Chelsea, &c.)—William Naylor, George Scott, 1st; John Bicknell, supernumerary.

Eighth London (Islington, &c.)—John Scott, John Rattenbury, Thomas Vasey, Edward Lightwood, M. C. Taylor; John Kershaw, Isaac Phenix, sen., Isaac Phenix, jun., supernumeraries.

Deptford—John Brown, 1st, John Lyth; Thomas Rogers, supernumerary. The superintendent shall reside at Greenwich.

Woolwich—Robert Thompson, Henry Edwards.

Hammersmith—W. D. Goy, Jacob Morton.

Stations of the Preachers.

Croydon—John Knowles, 1st, Thos. Wilkinson; Edw. Chapman, super.
Barking and Romford—G. Ranyell, who shall change once in every four weeks, on the Sabbath, with the ministers of the Third London circuit.
Leyton—William Burnet, who shall change twice in every quarter of a year, on the Lord's day, with the ministers of the First and Eighth London circuits. Brother Burnet shall reside at Woodford, Essex.
Ware and Bishop Stortford—John Richards, 2nd, Robert T. Rundle.
Cambridge—James Brownell, Marmaduke C. Osborn.
Windsor—William Box, Joshua Mottram.
Chelmsford—William Drewitt, Henry W. Jackson, B.A.
Maldon—Joseph B. West, John Reacher.
Colchester—James Ray, George Blencowe; William Sharpe, super.
Manningtree—Thomas Turner, Robert Keyworth, R. S. Ellis. Brother Keyworth shall reside at Harwich.
Ipswich—Ebenezer Moulton, Edward Crofts, John Harrop; George North, super. Brother Crofts shall reside at Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Hastings—Henry W. Williams, Thomas Akroyd; James Lancaster, Henry Padgham, supernumeraries.
Sevenoaks—Samuel Lucas, 1st, Alexander T. James.
Tunbridge Wells—Walter O. Croggon, Benjamin Frankland, B.A., John Skidmore. Brother Frankland shall reside at Tunbridge.
Lewes and Eastbourne—Joseph Pechey, who shall change regularly with the ministers of the Brighton circuit.
Brighton—William Barton, John Harvard, John Jones, 4th. Brother Harvard shall reside at Worthing.
St. Alban's—Maurice Britton, Richard Woodfin, Charles E. Woolmer. Brother Woolmer shall reside at Watford.
Guildford and Alton—Richard Chapman, John Eglinton, James A. Macdonald. Brother Eglinton shall reside at Alton, and Brother Macdonald at Godalming.
Dorking and Horsham—John Owen, George Buckley. Brother Buckley shall reside at Horsham.

II.—THE BEDFORD AND NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT.

Benjamin Andrews, LL.D., Chairman—Peter Cooper, Financial Secretary.
Bedford and Ampthill—Joseph Entwisle, Walter Coates, Thomas B. Goodwin; Maximilian Wilson, William Dixon, supernumeraries.
Leighton-Buzzard—John Wevill, Charles Carter, Henry Banks. Brother Banks shall reside at Stewkley.
Luton—Thomas Stephenson, M. T. Male.
Dunstable—Peter Cooper, John Vanes.
St. Neot's—J. D. Julian, James Sugden.
Biggleswade—Wright Shovelton, John W. Wilson.
Hitchin—Thomas Dove, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the ministers of the Biggleswade circuit.
Huntingdon—Thomas M. Rodham, Nathaniel Alston, John Moore; John Pigott, supernumerary.
Northampton—B. Andrews, LL.D., William Tarr; William Hinson, William Taylor, supernumeraries.
Towcester—James S. Haigh, H. Keet.
Daventry—William Jewett, James Golding, William Ford.
Newport-Pagnell—John Booth, James Hartle.
Higham Ferrers—Samuel H. Wardley, W. J. Dawson.
Wellingborough—John Cullen, John Dawson.
Kettering—John Mann; Henry Fish, A.M., supernumerary.

Stations of the Preachers.

Market Harborough—Thomas Pearson, 1st, Charles Hillard; Richard Eland, sen., supernumerary. Brother Hillard shall devote every other Sabbath to the Kettering circuit.

Chatteris—Benjamin G. Mitchell, Benjamin Field.

Oundle—John Tucker, George Rowe; Isaac Aldom, supernumerary.

III.—THE KENT DISTRICT.

Thomas Martin, Chairman—James Cooke, 1st, Financial Secretary.

Canterbury—James Cooke, 1st, Edward Fison.

Faversham—Jesse Pilcher, Charles G. Turton.

Rochester—Thomas Martin, W. H. Rule, Benjamin Gregory.

Gravesend—John Hobkirk, Henry J. Thomas. Brother Thomas shall reside at Dartford.

Sheerness—William Wedlock, who shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks with the minister of the Rochester circuit.

Margate—Joseph Hollis, John G. Wilson; Robert Morton, supernumerary. Brother Wilson shall reside at Ramsgate.

Dover—T. W. Smith, John Philp, W. B. Pope; James Jarrett, super.

Deal—James Rathbone, John Gilbert.

Rye—James Cheeswright, Jabez Overton.

Tenterden—John W. Wilson, Edward B. Pinder.

Ashford—Joseph Wilson, Henry Pollinger.

Sandhurst—Jabez Rought, Robert Dyson.

Maidstone—John Geden, William Hopewell.

Sittingbourne—John Smith, 1st, who shall change on one Sunday in every four weeks with the ministers of Faversham.

IV.—THE NORWICH AND LYNN DISTRICT.

James J. Topham, Chairman—James Allen, 2nd, Financial Secretary.

Norwich—James J. Topham, Thomas Thompson, A.M., Thomas Rigby; John Hanwell, supernumerary.

Bungay—Jas. Jones, 1st, John Livingstone; Wm. Edwards, 1st, super.

North Walsham—Charles Povah, George Smith, 1st, Robert Horwood.

Yarmouth—James Allen, 2nd, Thomas Rowe; James Waller, super.

Lowestoff—Francis S. Keeling, Frederick F. Edmunds. "

Framlingham and Peasenhall—Joseph Sykes, James Youngman.

Diss—T. Brumwell, J. Sharman, Jph. L. Ball; John Reynolds, 1st, super.

New Buckenham—Robert Mainwaring, James F. Masters.

Bury St. Edmund's—Richard Tabraham, John Danks.

Holt—William Worker, Robert G. Badcock.

Lynn—William Wilson, 2nd, Thornley Smith, James D. Dodgson.

Swaffham—Samuel Brown, 1st, Joseph Mortimer.

Downham—John Bissell, Matthew Giles.

Walsingham—D. Hateley, William Baddiley.

Wisbeach—William Dalby, Thomas Hughes.

Thetford—Theo. Pugh, Joseph Portrey (who shall reside at Methwold).

Mildenhall—Thos. Brothwood, Charles Garrett; Thos. Newton, super.

Ely—Samuel Truman, Thomas Batten, John Bate.

V.—THE OXFORD DISTRICT.

Robert Day, Chairman—Peter C. Horton, Financial Secretary.

Oxford—Robert Day, John E. Cooke.

High Wycombe—James Bartholomew, Thomas Withington.

Aylesbury—George F. Driver, John Webb.

Witney—Peter C. Horton, John Dowty.

Banbury—Richard Hornabrook, Richard Bell.

Stations of the Preachers.

Kineton—John Anderson, who shall change on one Sunday in every month with the ministers at Banbury.
Newbury—William Davies, 2nd, James P. Fairbourn.
Reading—Thomas Hodson, Alex. Puddicombe; Samuel Leigh, super.
Hungerford—Charles Williams, Uriah Butters, Charles Willis.
Watlington—Edmund Lockyer.
Thame—J. P. Johnson; Paul Clarke, super. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks.
Brackley—J. Pearce, George Clement, John S. Vickers.
Chipping-Norton—Samuel Cooke, Miles B. Pickering.
Swindon—Eben. Tovey, Jas. Hughes (who shall reside at Farrington).
Wantage—James Mayer, J. Cooke, 3rd (who shall reside at Abingdon).

VI.—THE PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

William M. Harvard, A.M., Chairman—Jacob Stanley, jun., Financial Secretary.
Portsmouth—W. M. Harvard, A.M., Jacob Stanley, jun., John Crawshaw.
Gosport—George Beard, who shall change with the ministers at Portsmouth on one Sunday in each month.
Salisbury—John Nicklin, William Hopkins; William Tranter, super.
Poole—James Smeeth, Richard Eland, jun.; James Hyde, super.
Wareham—William Watson, who shall act under the direction of the superintendent at Poole.
Wimborne—John Fletcher, Jph. Simpson, 2nd; Thos. Fletcher, super.
Ringwood—John Bonser, who shall change regularly on the Lord's day with the ministers at Poole.
Newport, Isle of Wight—John Wood, 1st, John Parry, Henry P. Brown, George C. Harvard. Brother Parry shall reside at Cowes, Brother Brown at Ryde, and Brother Harvard at Ventnor.
Southampton and Winchester—J. Crofts, W. Clegg, Jas. Smith (who shall reside at Winchester); Richard Waddy, John Willis, supernumeraries.
Andover—Thomas Bolas, Jacob Turvey.
Chichester—William Worth, Francis T. Tranmer.

VII.—THE GUERNSEY DISTRICT.

Joseph Earnshaw, Chairman.

Guernsey (English)—Ninian Barr; Wm. Toase, W. Wears, supers. Bro. Toase shall superintend the English work in Alderney.
Guernsey (French)—John Renier, G. Leale; James Hocart, supernumerary, and Editor of the French Magazine.
Alderney—John de Putron.
Jersey (English)—Jph. Earnshaw, Edwin Thorley; Jas. Etchells, sup.
Jersey (French), St. Helier—Philip Tourgis, William J. Handcock; Amice Olivier, supernumerary.
Jersey (French), St. Peter's—D. Robin.

VIII.—THE DEVONPORT DISTRICT.

John Smith, 2nd, Chairman—James Mowat, Financial Secretary.

Devonport—John Smith, 2nd, Samuel W. Christophers, Robert Rees.
Plymouth—James Mowat, Thomas Wood, George T. Morrison; Thomas Bersey, Oliver Henwood, Joshua Wade, supernumeraries.
Launceston—Thomas Jewell, John W. Roberts.
Holdsworthy—John Allin, John Shipham.
Kilhampton—J. L. Sanders, H. W. Holland.
Liskeard—Richard Moody, Edward Addison.
Callington—William Sanders, Thomas Chope.
Tavistock—John Ryan, 2nd, Wm. Way; N. Sibly, H. Hicks, supers.

Stations of the Preachers.

Camelford—Edward Branstone, James Fisher; John Robinson, super.
Brother Fisher shall reside at Wadebridge.

Kingsbridge—H. B. Tretheway, John Lewis, 2nd (who shall reside at Modbury).

Brixham—E. Toyne, James Mitchell (who shall reside at Dartmouth).

Ashburton—H. Daniels, H. Geach (who shall reside at Buckfastleigh).

IX.—THE CORNWALL DISTRICT.

Robert Young, Chairman—Edward Nye, Financial Secretary.

Redruth—Robert Bond, John G. Avery, John W. Greeves.

Camborne—Thomas Hardy, Joseph Midgeley, John Gostick. Brother Gostick shall reside at Tuckingmill.

Falmouth—Levi Waterhouse, Joseph T. Sanger; John Osborne, super.
Brother Sanger shall reside at Penryn.

Truro—Edward Nye, Michael Johnson.

Gwennap—W. Henley, G. Savery (who shall reside at St. Day), J. Spenser.

St. Agnes—Henry Young, William D. Tyack.

St. Austle—Thomas Collins, Joseph Payne, John McKenny.

St. Mawes—Peter Parsons, who shall change once in every month on the Lord's-day with the ministers at St. Austle.

Bodmin—Benjamin Elvins, John Bramwell.

St. Columb—Josiah Mycock, Mark Symons.

Penzance—Robert Young, John H. James, Henry L. Church (who shall reside at Newlyn); John Reynolds, Ralph Scurrah, supers.

St. Just—Everit Vigis, Edwin J. Sturges.

St. Ives—William P. Burgess, A.M., E. R. Talbot, A.M.

Seilly Islands—John B. Alexander; Thomas Robinson, supernumerary.

Helstone—Benjamin Carvosso, James Pilley, Thomas Osborne; William

Sleep, Joseph Womersley, Charles Colwell, supernumeraries.

Hayle—William Appleby, John Killick, John P. James.

Marazion—John Gregory, Elias Geake.

X.—THE EXETER DISTRICT.

John Hobson, Chairman.—James Grose, Financial Secretary.

Exeter—James Grose, Wm. Seccombe; James Odgers, Wm. Beal, supers.

Crediton—John Huggill.

Tiverton—James Cook, 2d, William F. Clark.

Taunton and Wellington—Samuel Beard, Thomas Leach; John Hobson, governor and chaplain of the Wesleyan Proprietary School; John Simmons, super. N.B. Brother Leach shall reside at Wellington.

Bridgewater—William Culcheth, George Moone.

South Petherton—John Saunders, John Nowell, 2d. Brother Nowell shall reside at Crewkerne.

Axminster—John Collier, who shall change on one Sunday in every month with the ministers at Bridport.

Budleigh-Salterton—John M. Budden, William Lees.

Bridport—Wm. Hill, James Nance (who shall reside at Lyme-Regis).

Barnstaple—Robert Colman, Henry Hayman.

South Moulton—James Sutch, James Hargreaves.

Bideford—John Williams, John Mollard, Frederick C. Haime; John C. Glendinnen, super. Brother Mollard shall reside at Great Torrington.

Dunster—Thomas Jeffries, Charles J. Williams. The superintendent shall reside at Williton.

Oakhampton—William S. Bestall, William Williams, 2nd.

Teignmouth—George Barnley, Wm. P. Slater (who shall reside at Torquay), Joseph Exell (who shall reside at Newton Bushell).

Stations of the Preachers.

XI.—THE BRISTOL DISTRICT.

Corbett Cooke, Chairman.—Charles Westlake, Financial Secretary.

Bristol, North (King-street, &c.)—Corbett Cooke, Wm. Hurt, J. W. Etheridge, P.H.D., J. C. Pengelly; John Woodrow, William Griffith, Robert James, supernumeraries.

Bristol, South (Langton-street, &c.)—J. W. Button, Charles Westlake, William Hessel.

Kingswood—Charles Clay, George Kevern; Joseph Cusworth, governor of Kingswood school.

Banwell—Joseph Crump, Thomas Sheers, Thomas James (who shall reside at Weston-super-Mare); John Shipman, supernumerary.

Stroud—Thomas Webb, George B. Mellor, John Brown, 3rd (who shall reside at Cirencester).

Dursley—Wm. Davies, 1st, John Weatherstone (who shall reside at Eastington), Charles Howe; Thos. Talboys, Daniel Osborne, supers.

Downend, near Bristol—James Meadmore, Wm. Powell, 2nd.

Gloucester—John Smedley, Richard Roberts.

Tewkesbury—John Evans, Edwin Fice; James Roberts, 2nd, super.

Cheltenham—John Kirk, 1st, Wm. H. Cornforth, Wm. Edwards, 2d (who shall reside at Winchcombe); Frdk. Calder, Geo. Robinson, supers.

Newport (Monmouthshire)—Thomas Jones, 1st, Fredk. Payne (who shall reside at Pillgwenlly), John T. Morley; Charles Haime, super.

Cardiff—Chas. Tucker, Jno. S. Workman (who shall reside at Pontypridd).

Bridgend—John Spenser Jones. The ministers at Cardiff and Bridgend shall change once in six weeks.

Monmouth—Wm. Baker, sen., H. Laugher; Thos. Arnett, super.

Abergavenny and Pontypool—H. Carter, Thos. Rogerson, Edward Guest.

The superintendent shall reside on the Pontypool side of the circuit.

Ledbury—Thomas Catterick, John Parsons.

Forest of Dean—Samuel Wesley, who shall change with the ministers at Ledbury once a month.

Hereford—Samuel Taylor, John Bramley.

XII.—THE BATH DISTRICT.

Peter Duncan, Chairman.—Hugh Jones, Financial Secretary.

Bath—Peter Duncan, Wm. Willan, John V. B. Shrewsbury; Thomas Ashton, Henry Cheverton, supernumeraries.

Bradford (Wilts.)—Hugh Jones, G. F. White (who shall reside at Trowbridge).

Midsomer-Norton—Joseph Lowthian, Josiah Goodwin, John S. Jones.

Frome—John Newton, Henry M. Harvard.

Warminster—Wm. Allen, 3rd, who shall change with the ministers at Frome once in six weeks.

Melksham—James Taylor, 1st, Walter Vercoe.

Devizes—Thomas Payne, who shall change on one Sunday in six weeks with the ministers at Melksham.

Shepton Mallet—Jas. Lees, Thos. Flower (who shall reside at Coleford).

Castle Carey and Bruton—William Colbron, who shall change with the ministers at Shepton Mallet once a month.

Sherborne—Zephaniah Job, Uriah Scott; John Bustard, super.

Weymouth—Ed. Jennings, Jph. Watson (who shall reside at Portland).

Dorchester—John Stevens, Jonathan Dent.

Shaftesbury—John W. Cotton, Thomas R. Jones.

Glastonbury—H. B. Olver, John Walter.

Stations of the Preachers.

XIII.—THE FIRST SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.—(ENGLISH.)

Joseph Pratten, Chairman—William Bytheway, Financial Secretary.

Swansea—Wm. Bytheway, Wm. Williams, 1st (who shall reside at Neath); Evan Parry, John Coates, supernumeraries.
Merthyr-Tydvil—Jph. Fletcher, Jas. Emory, W. H. Bakewell, T. Vinson.
Brecon—Paul Orchard, sen., Paul Orchard, jun.
Carmarthen—Joseph Pratten, Thomas Harding (who shall reside at Llanelly); Thomas Warren, super.
Haverfordwest—J. Morgan, Aaron Langley (who shall reside at Milford).
Pembroke—Thomas Heeley, John Martin.

XIV.—THE SECOND SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.—(WELSH.)

Thomas Jones, 2nd, Chairman—Isaac Jenkins, Financial Secretary.

Merthyr-Tydvil—Rowland Hughes, Benjamin Roberts, Griffith Roberts.
Crickhowell—Owen Owens, William Rowlands.
Cardiff—Henry Wilcox, Richard Evans.
Cowbridge—John Rees. N.B. 1. Brother Evans shall divide his labours between the Cardiff and Cowbridge circuits. 2. The superintendents shall change on one Sunday in every two months.
Brecon—Timothy Jones.
Llandilo—E. Morgan; M. Griffith, super. The ministers in the Brecon and Llandilo circuits shall change on one Sunday in every quarter.
Carmarthen—Thomas Jones, 2d, Joseph Jones; Hugh Hughes, super.
Swansea—Robert Williams; Wm. Hughes, Evan Hughes, supernumeraries.
Lampeter and Cardigan—Lewis Williams, David Evans, 2d; Griffith Hughes, R. Owen, supers. The superintendent shall reside at Lampeter.
St. David's—Isaac Jenkins. The ministers in the Cardigan and St. David's circuits shall change on one Sunday in every quarter.
Aberystwyth—John Lloyd, David Jones, 2nd.
Machynlleth—John Herbert; Wm. Evans, supernumerary. The ministers in the Machynlleth and Aberystwyth circuits shall change on one Sunday in every six weeks.
Llanidlos—Evan Richards, book steward; John Jones, 3rd, editor; Edward Jones, 1st, supernumerary.

XV.—THE NORTH WALES DISTRICT.—(WELSH.)

Edward Anwyl, Chairman—Thomas L. Richards, Financial Secretary.

Ruthin and Denbigh—John Bartley. Wm. Jones.
Llangollen—John L. Richards, Evan Davies.
Corwen—John Hughes. 1. Brother Davies shall divide his labours between the Llangollen and Corwen circuits. 2. The superintendents shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.
Llanrwst—Edward Anwyl, James Jones, Robert Jones. The superintendent shall reside at Abergel.
Holywell—Wm. Owens, Thomas Morris.
Mold—John Richards, 1st, Isaac Jones.
Llanasa (near Holywell)—Lewis Jones. The ministers of the Llanasa and Holywell circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.
Beaumaris—Humphrey Jones, Evan Pugh (who shall divide his labours between the Beaumaris and Amlwch circuits. The superintendents shall change on two Sundays in every six weeks.
Amlwch—Methuselah Thomas. 1. Brother Pugh shall divide his labours between the Llangollen and Corwen circuits. 2. The superintendents shall change on two Sundays in every six weeks.
Carnarvon—David Gravel.

Stations of the Preachers.

Bangor—Richard Bonner, John Evans. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.
Pwllheli—Robert Jones, 1st; Evan Evans, supernumerary.
Barmouth—David Evans, 1st, Charles Nuttall. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.
Dolgelly—Wm. Davies, 3rd, Daniel Jones.
Llanfyllin—Richard Prichard, John Hughes, 2nd; Wm. Batten, David Jones, 1st, supernumeraries.
Llanfair—Wm. Powell, 1st. The ministers of the two preceding circuits shall change on two Sundays in every quarter.

XVI.—THE BIRMINGHAM AND SHREWSBURY DISTRICT.

James Methley, Chairman—John Bedford, Financial Secretary.

Birmingham West (Cherry street, &c.)—J. Methley, G. B. Macdonald, Edward Brice, Thomas Green; James Heaton, Robert Melson, Wm. Bridgnell, supernumeraries.
Birmingham East (Belmont row, &c.)—John Bedford, J. Dixon, D.D., John Hartley.
West Bromwich—Wm. Jackson, 1st, Wm. H. Sargent.
Wednesbury—Thos. Harris, B. Slack, John Keightley, Wm. Exley, Thomas Kent.
Walsall—Thomas Edwards, John Stirzaker, James Parkes; Jabez Yardley, supernumerary.
Wolverhampton—Robert Sherwell, John H. Norton, James Clapham.
Dudley—James Allen, 1st, John W. Thomas, J. E. Moulton, George Curnock; Wm. Homer, supernumerary.
Stourbridge—Benjamin John, Christopher Ridler, Richard Hardy; Saml. Sugden, supernumerary.
Stourport—Henry Powis, Edward Russell; John Stanley, sen., supernum.
Worcester—John Walsh, Joseph Hunt.
Bromsgrove—Henry Ranson, who shall change on one Sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Redditch.
Evesham—Charles Vibert, Joseph Willis.
Redditch—Wm. Ricketts, Robert Horsfield.
Coventry—Charles Jauion, John Roberts, 2nd.
Leamington—Elijah Morgan, Alexander T. Weir.
Stratford-upon-Aven—Thomas Denham, who shall change on one Sabbath in every month with the ministers of Leamington.
Hinckley—Thomas Jeffrey, Thomas Pearson, 4th; Wm. Stokes, supern.
Shrewsbury—John Tindall, Anthony Ward; Benj. Wood, supernumerary.
Madeley (near Ironbridge)—J. B. Holroyd, John Smart, Wm. Moss, Frederick W. Briggs.
Wellington—W. Piggott, Edward Bramford, John Nelson, 2nd.
Ludlow—Ralph Stott, John Locke.
Kington—Joseph T. Wilkinson, Joseph Posnett.

XVII.—THE MACCLESFIELD DISTRICT.

Alexander Bell, Chairman—Thomas Stokoe, Financial Secretary.

Macclesfield—Alexander Bell, N. Curnock, Wm. R. Rogers (who shall reside at Bollington), Joseph Mood; Barnard Slater, supernumerary.
Buxton—Thomas A. Rayner, R. J. T. Hawksley.
Congleton—John D. Cafey, George Hurst.
Namptwich and Crewe—James Godden, Wm. Swallow (who shall reside at Crewe.)
Northwich—Thomas Stokoe, Thomas Richardson.

Stations of the Preachers.

Burslem—Charles Cheetham, John Simon (who shall reside at Hanley;)
Miles C. Dixon, supernumerary.
Tunstall—Andrew Mackintosh, Charles Rawlings (who shall reside at
Kidsgrrove.)
Newcastle-under-Lyne—Samuel Atkinson, Charles Nightingale.
Longton—Abraham Watmough, Sampson Cock (who shall reside at Stoke.)
Stafford—Charles Hawthorn, Thomas Hulme.
Leek—Thomas Hickson, Wm. Bridley, John B. Dyson; Wm. Wears,
supernumerary.
Uttoxeter—Jonathan Barrowclough, Edward A. Telfer.
Cheadle—Matthew Salt, who shall change on one Sabbath in every four
weeks with the ministers at Uttoxeter.

XVIII.—THE LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

Robert Newton, D.D., Chairman—Wm. W. Stamp, Financial Secretary.
Liverpool North (Brunswick Chapel, &c.)—W. W. Stamp, Wm. Illing-
worth, Saml. R. Hall; Geo. Highfield, John Davies, T. Stead, supers.
Liverpool South (Pitt street, &c.)—Robert Newton, D.D., Robert Newstead,
George Roebuck, Thomas Capp, Wm. Spencer.
Liverpool Welsh (Benn's Gardens, &c.)—Thos. Aubrey, J. R. Chambers;
Lot Hughes, Samuel Davies, 1st, David Williams, supernumeraries.
Chester—W. B. Thorneloe, Joseph K. Tucker; Isaac Lilly, John Jones,
2nd, supernumeraries.
Mold and Buckley Mount—James Faulkner, who shall change with the
ministers of the Chester circuit once in every six weeks.
Carnarvon and Bangor (English)—Wm. H. Lewis.
Holyhead—W. T. Nelson, who shall change with Brother Lewis on two
successive Sabbaths in each quarter.
Wrexham—T. Haswell, T. H. Brocklehurst (who shall reside at Oswestry.)
Whitchurch (Salop)—R. Totherick, Benjamin Smith.
Warrington—S. Broadbent, George Dickenson.
Runcorn—R. H. Hare, John Hanson (who shall reside at Frodsham.)
St. Helen's and Prescott—Joshua Hocken, John F. Moody.
Southport and Ormskirk—John Bell, Joseph B. Dawson (who shall re-
side at Ormskirk); John Phillips, W. Coultas, supernumeraries.
Wigan—Robert Heys, Joseph Miller.
Preston and Chorley—Stephen Kay, Joshua Priestley (who shall reside
at Chorley,) Edward Shelton.
Garstang—James Escott, George Mather (who shall reside at Fleetwood,)
Richard Smetham.
Lancaster—Thomas Moss, Joseph Sutton.
Newtown—Harry Pedley, Edward Watson (who shall reside at Welshpool.)

XIX.—THE MANCHESTER AND BOLTON DISTRICT.

John Hannah, D.D., Chairman—Jonathan Crowther, Financial Secretary.
First Manchester (Oldham-street, &c.)—Israel Holgate, Samuel Simpson,
George T. Perks, G. C. Taylor; Peter Prescott, Walter Hussey, Abrm.
Stead, supernumeraries.
Second Manchester (Irwell-street, &c.)—Richard Ray, William Fox, 1st,
William H. Taylor, John Kirk, 2nd; Thomas Slugg, supernum.
Third Manchester (Grosvenor-street, &c.)—Charles Haydon, Wm. Elton,
H. Castle; John Bumstead, supernumerary.
Fourth Manchester (Bridgewater-street, &c.)—Wm. Kelk, John G. Cox.
(Welsh)—Samuel Davies, 2nd, who shall act under the direction of
the superintendent of the fourth Manchester circuit.

Stations of the Preachers.

Fifth Manchester (Oxford-road, &c.)—George Osborn, Alfred Barrett, Samuel Wilkinson, 2nd.
Altrincham—Jas. Rosser, Thos. S. Bowers, B.A.; Wm. M'Kittrick, sup.
Stockport, North (Tiviot-dale, &c.)—Isaac Keeling, John Ryan, 1st, W. T. Radcliffe.
Stockport, South (Hill-gate, &c.)—John Brandreth, John T. Yeates.
New Mills—John Connon, Stephen P. Harvard.
Glossop—John Raby, James Ford; George Marsden, super.
Ashton-under-Lyne—Joseph Roberts, W. H. Bambridge (who shall reside at Hyde), C. B. Ritchie; Luke Heywood, super.
Oldham—Samuel Timms, James Harris; John Heape, super.
Delph (Saddleworth)—Wm. Bramford, who shall change once in five weeks with the ministers at Oldham.
Bolton—John M'Owan, John E. Coulson, James Little, Frederick F. Woolley (who shall reside at Farnworth).
Rochdale—Thomas Staton, Samuel Merrill.
Burnley—Jonathan J. Bates, John M. Kirk, John H. Lord.
Bury—William Wilson, 3rd, John Vine, Edmund Oldfield.
Blackburn—Benjamin Clayton, Francis W. Greaves.
Haslingden—Benjamin Franklin, jun., John Earnshaw, Josiah Pearson; William Sleigh, supernumerary.
Bacup—John Walker, Joseph Moorhouse (who shall reside at Longholme, Rawtenstall).
Colne—Benjamin Gartside, John Eaton.
Clitheroe—Dixon Naylor, George E. Young.
Leigh—John Boyd, who shall change on one sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Bolton.

XX.—THE HALIFAX AND BRADFORD DISTRICT.

Francis A. West, Chairman—Henry H. Chettle, Financial Secretary.

Halifax—George Turner, 1st, H. H. Chettle, Elijah Jackson; Michael Cousin, John W. Barritt, supernumeraries.
Huddersfield, First (Queen-street, &c.)—James Carr, Alex. Macauley.
Huddersfield, Second (Buxton-road, &c.)—F. A. West, A. Learoyd, Edwin Knaggs.
Holmfirth—James Millar, John H. Faull; Thomas Hill, super.
Sowerby Bridge—James C. Hindson, John Ward, 1st, Joseph Binna.
Todmorden—Aquila Barber, Robert S. Hardy, John Luddington.
Denby Dale, (near Huddersfield)—George Croft, William Harley.
Bradford, West (Kirkgate chapel, &c.)—James Shoar, John Morris; Stephen Wilson, Joseph Pretty, supers.
Bradford, East (Eastbrook chapel, &c.)—William Bird, Daniel Walton, James D. Brooklehurst.
Great Horton, near Bradford—John T. Barr, John Ward, 2nd.
Keighley—Thomas Dunn, George Hughes (who shall reside at Haworth, letters should be sent to Haworth, near Keighley), Thos. Brookes.
Bingley—James Catton, George Greenwood.
Shipley—Samuel Allen, who shall change on one Sabbath in every five weeks with the ministers at Bingley.
Skipton—Wm. Levell, Jos. Garrett.
Addingham—Thomas Murray, Pascho Hoskins.
Grassington—John Smithson, who shall change on one Sabbath in every six weeks with the ministers at Skipton.
Settle—Christopher Newton, John Jeffreys.

Stations of the Preachers.

XXI.—THE LEEDS DISTRICT.

William Atherton, Chairman—Joseph Lawton, Financial Secretary.

First Leeds (Brunswick)—Robert Jackson, G. Steward, T. Williams, 1st; Isaac Turton, John Roadhouse, William Vevers, supernumeraries.

Second Leeds (Oxford-place)—Edwd. Walker, William H. Clarkson, John Burton, Thomas S. Monkhouse; Thomas Rowland, super.

Third Leeds (St. Peter's)—J. P. Haswell, Joseph Lawton, T. O. Keysell.

Fourth Leeds (Wesley)—T. H. Squance, John Watson, W. R. Williams.

Bramley (near Leeds)—William Binning, James Kendall, 1st, Robert M. Wilcox; Charles Radcliffe, supernumerary.

Wakefield—Wm. Atherton, Benj. Clough, Thos. Shaw, Geo. Smith, 3rd.

Birstal—Isaac Denison, Matthew Cranswick, James Scholes; John Hodgson, James Fowler, Hodgson Casson, supernumeraries.

Dewsbury—Richard Heape, William J. Shrewsbury, William Dawson. Brother Dawson shall reside at Mirfield.

Knaresborough—John Roberts, 1st, W. Wilson, 4th; Luke Barlow, sup.

Odley—Benjamin Pearce, Richard Petch; William Waterhouse, super.

Pateley Bridge—Abraham Crabtree, John I. Dredge.

Pontefract—S. Fiddian, R. Inglis, S. Hooley, J. Harding (who shall reside at Knottingley); J. Sedgwick, T. Moxon, J. Nicholson, supers.

Cleckheaton—William Winterbourn, Peter Prescott, jun. Brother Prescott shall reside at Brighouse.

Yeadon (near Leeds)—Leonard Posnet.

Woodhouse Grove—John Knowles, 2nd, Samuel Lord; Wm. Lord, governor of Woodhouse Grove School. Brother Lord shall divide his labours between the Yeadon and Woodhouse Grove circuits. Letters to the superintendent should be directed Idle, near Leeds; and letters for the school should be directed Woodhouse Grove, Apperley-bridge, near Leeds.

XXII.—THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT.

Samuel D. Waddy, Chairman—William Smith, Financial Secretary.

Sheffield West (Carver-street)—William Allen, 1st, Joseph Wood, T. P. Clarke, John Hornby; Samuel D. Waddy, governor and chaplain of the Wesleyan proprietary school; John Maclean, supernumerary.

Sheffield East (Norfolk-street)—William Smith, Joseph T. Milner, Frederick Griffith, Edward Jones, 2nd.

Chesterfield—William Parker, W. Lindley.

Bakewell—Moses Rayner, Thomas Derry.

Bradwell—D. Cornforth, Henry Cattle.

Rotherham—Edward Sumner, Richard Brown.

Wath (near Rotherham)—Adam Fletcher, W. Sugden.

Doncaster—Thomas Dickin, Daniel Chapman, James Laycock; Thomas Garbutt, 1st, supernumerary.

Barnsley—Ralph R. Keeling, James Osborn.

Retford—John Brown, 2nd, Henry Richardson, Thomas Sheldon.

Worksop—James Brooke, Henry J. Staley.

XXIII.—THE NOTTINGHAM AND DERBY DISTRICT.

George Taylor, Chairman—James Loutit, Financial Secretary.

Nottingham, South (Halifax chapel. &c.)—James Loutit, Robert Maxwell, Samuel Walker; Daniel S. Tatham, supernumerary.

Nottingham, North (Wesley chapel. &c.)—George Taylor, Timothy C. Ingle, Samuel Coley, Joshua Duffill.

Ilkestone—Alexander Hume, Henry Balls.

Mansfield—John Crowe, J. P. Lockwood; Richard Allen, supernumerary.

Stations of the Preachers.

Newark—W. B. Stephenson, J. Randerson; J. Hickling, supernumerary.
Bingham—Martin Jubb, Thomas Crosby.
Leicester—Joseph Raynar, Rd. Rymer; John Denton, D. Deacon, supers.
Melton Mowbray—Robert Gover, Edward Horton.
Oakham—James Stott, A. Rennard. Brother Rennard shall reside at Uppingham.
Stamford—Henry Kirkland, Wm. Jackson, 3rd; John Ingham, super.
Grantham—Joseph Floyd, W. J. Skidmore, Peter Featherstone.
Peterborough—William W. Rouch, William O. Aldom, Joseph Bate.
Loughborough—James Wilson, F. Slight.
Castle Donington—John Parkes, Rupert Chawner.
Derby—Wm. Horton, John Lambert, John Relph; Sml. Brocksop, super.
Ashbourne—Richard Sergeant, who shall change once in every month with the ministers at Derby.
Belper—George Birley, George Hagen.
Ripley (near Alfreton)—Isaac Harding, John S. Ridsdale.
Ashby de la Zouch—John Hague, George Hobill.
Burton-on-Trent—Henry Wilkinson, William Parkinson.
Cromford—John F. England, William B. Dennis.

XXIV.—THE LINCOLN DISTRICT.

William Bacon, Chairman—Peter Budd, Financial Secretary.

Lincoln—William Bacon, Peter Budd, William Cattle, Thos. S. Wood.
Sleaford—John Nicholson, Edward Sackett, Philip Fowler.
Market Rasen—John B. Whittingham, William Baker, jun.; Thomas Padman, supernumerary.
Louth—John Stephenson, William Bond, Joseph Heaton, John Clulow; James Bumstead, supernumerary.
Horncastle—Thomas H. Walker, John Talbot, John Blackwell; James Hopewell, supernumerary.
Alford—Thos. Armson, Thos. Eckersley; Robt. Bryant, supernumerary.
Spilsby—Jonathan Cadman, George Oyston.
Coningsby—Seth Dixon, who shall change with the ministers at Boston and Horncastle, once in every six weeks with each circuit.
Boston—P. Hardcastle, James P. Dunn.
Wainfleet—Ambrose Freeman, David Griffiths
Spalding—T. Burrows, H. D. Lowe (who shall reside at Holbeach), W. Rodman.
Bourne—John Bowman, Abel Burgess.

XXV.—THE HULL DISTRICT.

Henry Davies, Chairman—Henry Bleby, Financial Secretary.

Hull West (Waltham street, &c.)—Charles Prest, Henry Bleby, William Jackson, 2nd.
Hull East (George yard, &c.)—Henry Davies, T. Llewellyn, Wm. Davison.
Beverley—Samuel Brown, 2nd, Robert Lyon; Samuel Crompton, super.
Driffield—Samuel Wilde, Joseph Officer.
Howden—John Sumner, Wm. Ingram.
Patrington—Thomas Brown, Richard Smailes.
Hornsea—Joseph Cheeswright, Edward King; John Jones, 1st, supern.
Grimsby—Benjamin Firth, Robert Dugdale, Henry Hastling, Geo. Scott; 2nd; Edward Abraham, supernumerary.
Gainsborough—Wm. Crookes, Thomas Short, Henry J. Booth.
Epworth—Benjamin Hudson, Nathaniel Alston
Snaith—Abel Dernalley, Samuel Simmons (who shall reside at Gooke,) Wm. G. Duncan.

Stations of the Preachers.

Brigg—Thomas D. Baines, George Southern.
Barton—Thomas Cocking, Nathan Rouse, Wm. Exton; John Nowell, 1st, supernumerary.
Bridlington—Thomas Eastwood, Jarvis Cheesman, Edward Stokes Charles North, supernumerary. ;

XXVI.—THE YORK DISTRICT.

Samuel Tindall, Chairman—Benjamin B. Waddy, Financial Secretary.
York—Samuel Tindall, Benjamin B. Waddy, William Davenport, Gervase Smith; John Burdsall, Anthony Triffitt, William Carlton, Matthew Mallinson, supernumeraries.
Tadcaster—William Wilkinson, Matthew Banks.
Pocklington—Samuel Rowe, H. Owen.
Malton—John Jackson, William H. Robson, James Kendall, 2nd; David Jackson, supernumerary.
Easingwold—Josiah Hudson, Richard Stepney, W. Stevinson (who shall reside at Helmsley).
Scarborough—Richard Felvus, Wm. Jessop, J. Collier; Fras. Collier, sup.
Pickering—John M. Joll, Wm. P. Peck; Joseph Frank, supernumerary.
Thirsk—Wm. Robson, Francis Barker, Jesse Edgoose; John Kemp, sup.
Ripon—Wm. Ash, Timothy R. Moxon; T. Kilner, supernumerary.
Selby—John Bolam, William Faulkner, William Fox, 2nd.

XXVII.—THE WHITBY AND DARLINGTON DISTRICT.

George Jackson, Chairman—Peter Samuel, Financial Secretary.
Whitby—William J. Bullivant, Thomas Garbutt, 2nd, John Cannell.
Stokesley—John Haigh, Henry Graham, Thomas Timms; Wm. Rennison, Joseph Hutton, supernumeraries.
Darlington—George Jackson, Luke H. Wiseman.
Stockton—Peter Samuel, Thomas M. Fitzgerald (who shall reside at Hartlepool), Henry Smallwood (who shall reside at Middlesborough.)
Barnard Castle—Henry Hine, George Russell (who shall reside at Barningham, near Richmond, Yorkshire), Robert Cass.
Bishop Auckland—Robert Cooke, Felix H. Pickworth.
Middleham—John I. Muff, George Abbott.
Richmond—James S. Thomas, Joshua Mason.
Reeth—Thomas Kemshall, Robert W. Broomfield.
Bedale—James Bate, Jabez Ingham (who shall reside at Masham); Wm. Shakleton, supernumerary.

XXVIII.—THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

William Burt, Chairman—William Pemberton, Financial Secretary.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Wm. Burt, Wm. Pemberton, Wm. Andrews, Wm. M. Punshon; Francis Neale, supernumerary.
Gateshead—Joseph Burgess, Joseph Kipling.
North Shields—Robert Leake, Matthew Andrew.
Blyth—Samuel Bowman, John Elam.
South Shields—William Chambers, John Walters.
Sunderland—Isaac Woodcock, John H. Beech, John Hay; Humphrey Stevenson, George Clarke, supernumeraries.
Houghton-le-Spring—Samuel Lucas, 2nd, John Wetherell.
Durham—John Wilson, 1st, Robert Lewis, Joseph Chapman.
Wolsingham—John Imisson, Henry Needle.
Hexham—Joseph Whitehead, William Hirst.
Shorley Bridge—Peter Wilkinson, Thomas M'Cullagh.
Alston—Thomas Ballinghall, William Shaw, 2nd.

Stations of the Preachers.

Allendale Town—George Ellidge, Samuel Haigh.

Alnwick—David Edgar.

Berwick—Lancelot Railton, who shall change on two Sundays in each quarter with brother Edgar.

Morpeth—George Paterson, who shall change on one Sunday in every three weeks with the ministers in the Blyth circuit.

XXIX.—THE CARLISLE DISTRICT.

Hugh Beech, Chairman—William Simpson, Financial Secretary.

Carlisle—H. Beech, J. W. Crankshaw.

Brampton—H. Johnson, who shall change on one Sunday in every three weeks with the ministers at Carlisle.

Whitehaven—Thomas Savage, Samuel Walker, 2nd.

Workington—J. Lemmon, Edw. Baylis (who shall reside at Cockermouth.)

Appleby—Thomas John Walker, Wm. Foster (who shall reside at Brough); John Felvus, supernumerary.

Penrith—William Simpson, William Shearman, Thomas G. Horton.

Wigton and Keswick—A. Mansie, T. H. Hill (who shall reside at Keswick).

Kendal—J. Lewis, 1st, J. Longdon; Jas. Dunbar, Wm. Huddleston, sups.

Ulverstone—Charles Currelly, John Baker.

Dumfries—Alfred Lockyer, who shall change once a quarter with the ministers at Carlisle.

XXX.—THE ISLE OF MAN DISTRICT.

Roger Moore, Chairman.

Douglas and Castletown—R. Moore, G. A. Page, Jph. Hirst, Theo. Talbot.

Ramsey and Peel—John Rossell, Samuel Healey, Samuel Greathead.

XXXI.—THE EDINBURGH AND ABERDEEN DISTRICT.

John Drake, Chairman—John Hannah, 2nd, Financial Secretary.

Edinburgh—Robt M. MacBrair, A.M., Geo. Turner, 2nd, Wm. L. Horton.

Dunbar and Haddington—Robert Brown, who shall change with the ministers at Edinburgh, under the direction of the superintendent.

Glasgow and Paisley—John P. Hetherington, William Hales; William France, William Harvie, supernumeraries.

Greenock—Samuel Macauley, who shall change with the ministers at Glasgow on one Sunday in every six weeks.

Airdrie—William Allen, 4th, John T. Duncan.

Stirling and Doune—Henry Dean, William Mearns, A.M.

Ayr—James Beckwith.

Aberdeen—John Hannah, 2nd, R. Martin, T. D. Dilks; G. Douglas, sup.

Dundee—Jabez Palmer.

Perth—John C. George, who shall change once in every six weeks with the ministers at Dundee.

Arbroath and Montrose—J. Drake, who shall reside at Montrose, A. Abbott.

Banff—Robert Haworth.

Inverness—Edward B. Warters, who shall change with the ministers at Banff on two Sundays in every six months.

XXXII.—THE SHETLAND ISLES DISTRICT.

Thompson Hesk, Chairman.

Lerwick—Thompson Hesk, Daniel Farquhar (who shall reside at Dnnroes) news), Wm. Parsonson (who shall reside in the Island of Whaleay.)

Walls—James Findlay.

North-Mavin and Delting—Benjamin Haworth.

North Isles—William Fern, who shall reside in the Island of Unst; Wm. Langridge, supernumerary.

Stations of the Preachers.

IRISH AND FOREIGN STATIONS.

I.—EUROPE.

IRELAND.

Lucan and Trim—W. Burnside, J. Shaw
Kilkenny—John Walker, Geo. Chambers
Tipperary—James Carey
Youghal—James Henry
Fermoy—Fred. P. Le Maitre; John Har-
rington, sup., who resides in Mallow
Kinsale—Robert Black
Berehaven Mines—Thomas M'Lorinan
Kerry—John Hughes

Letters to be addressed to Tralee.

Ballinasloe—Thomas Hickey
Nenagh and Killaloe—James Sullivan,
Samuel Ferguson

Kilrush—Francis Stephens

Galway—H. Geddes; W. Cornwall, sup.

Belmullet and Erris—John H. Robinson
Cavan—Thomas Foster. One to be sent

Letters to be addressed to Beltrabet.

Donegal—W. B. Lebert. R. H. Campbell,
who is to reside in Dunkaneely

Rathmelton—Francis Morrow

Newtownlimavady—Jeremiah Wilson

Ballymena—John Feely

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

Charles Cook, Chairman of the District,
and General Superintendent of the
Missions in France and Switzerland

Paris—Charles Cook, John W. Close

Calais—Philip Guiton

Boulogne—James Aldis, supernumerary
Cabin, Le Bocage, &c.—P. Lucas, C. C. de

Boisville, who shall reside at Lisleux
Bar-le-Duc—William Ogier

Nismes, Auduze, La Vauange, and La
Gardonnègue—Henry De Jersey, John

L. Rostan, Peter Masset, Luke Puls-
ford; Peter Roy, Assistant Missionary

Ganges, &c. (Les Cevennes, West)—Jno.
Le Lievre, Assistant Missionary; Hy.

Martin, supernumerary. N.B.—This
circuit will be for this year under the

superintendence of Brother De Jersey
Nyons, &c. (Drome and Upper Alps)—

Francis Farjat, Louis Martin, Philip
Neel, Gideon Jaulmes

Lausanne and Aigle (Switzerland)—
Matthew Gallienne

MEDITERRANEAN MISSIONS.

Gibraltar—Hilton Cheeseborough; Geo.
Alton, Spanish department

II.—ASIA.

CEYLON. I.—SINGHALESSE DISTRICT.

(SOUTH.)

Daniel J. Gogerly, Chairman of the Dis-
trict, and General Superintendent of
the Missions in South Ceylon.

Colombo (South)—Daniel J. Gogerly;
Andrew Kessen, LL.D., Principal of
the Native Normal Institution under
the Ceylon Government; William
Hill; David de Silva, Native Minister
Colombo (North)—John A. Poullier, Na-
tive Minister

Negombo and Rillegalle—Daniel D.
Pereira, Native Minister

N.B.—Brother Pereira shall visit Rille-
galle once in every quarter

Kandy and Kornegalle to be visited under
direction of the Gen. Superintendent

Seedua—C. de Hoedt, Native Minister
Galkisse—C. Wijesingha, Native Minister

Morotto—P. G. de Zylva, Native Minister
Pantura—D. A. L. Bartholomeux, Native

Minister

N.B.—The Colombo North, Negombo,
Seedua, Galkisse, Morotto, & Pantura

Circuits are under the care of the Su-
perintendent of Colombo South Circ.

Caltura—Jno. R. Parys, Native Minister
Galle and Amblangodde—William H.

A. Dickson, Joseph Rippon

Belligam—Paul Rodrigo, Native Assis-
tant Minister

Matura, Dondra, and Goddapitiya—W.
A. Lalmon, Native Minister

N.B.—The Belligam, Matura, Dondra,
and Goddapitiya Circuits are under

the care of the Galle Superintendent

II.—THE TAMIL DISTRICT.—(NORTH.)

Peter Percival, Chairman of the District,
and General Superintendent of the
Missions in North Ceylon.

Jaffna, Waunerponne, and Puttoor—
Peter Percival, James Gilling, Richd.

Watson, Native Minister

Point-Pedro and Cattavally—Edward J.
Robinson

Trincomalee—John E. S. Williams

Batticaloa, First (Puleantevo)—John
Walton, J. S. Phillips, Native Minister

Batticaloa, Second (Caravaor)—One
earnestly requested

CONTINENTAL INDIA.

I.—THE MADRAS DISTRICT.

Samuel Hardey, Chairman and General
Superintendent of the Madras District

Madras—Samuel Hardey, Peter Batche-
lor, Ebenezer E. Jenkins

Negapatam & Tranquebar—John Pink-
ney, John Kilner

Manargoody and Trichinopoly, Joseph
Little

Bangalore (Tamil)—Thomas Cryer

Stations of the Preachers.

II.—THE MYSORE DISTRICT.

John Garrett, Chairman and General Superintendent of the Mysore District.

Bangalore (Canarese)—John Garrett, Edward J. Hardey

Mysore—David Sanderson, Thomas B. Glanville

Goobbee and Toomkoor, Two wanted—H. O. Sullivan, Assistant Missionary
Coonghul—Joseph Morris. One wanted

AUSTRALASIA AND POLYNESIA.

L.—THE AUSTRALIA AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND DISTRICT. NEW SOUTH WALES.

William Binnington Boyce, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Australian and Van Diemen's Land Missions.

Sydney, North, (York-street)—William Binnington Boyce, General Superintendent; Francis Tuckfield, J. Oram
Sydney, South (Chippendale)—John Eggleston

Sydney, East (Surrey Hills)—B. Hurst
Paramatta—Nathaniel Turner

Windsor—Samuel Wilkinson; James Somerville, assistant missionary

Bathurst—Benj. Chapman; W. Byrnes, assistant missionary

Hunter-River—William Schofield

Camden—No resident missionary

Wollongong—No resident missionary

Goulbourn—Frederick Lewis

Queenbeyan—William Lightbody

Moreton-Bay—No resident missionary;

George Poole, supernumerary

Scone—No resident missionary

AUSTRALIA FELIX.

Melbourne—Wm. Butters; John Pennell, assistant missionary

Geelong—Thomas B. Harris

Portland-Bay and Port-Fairy—John Harcourt

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide—D. J. Draper, T. T. N. Hull

Burra-Burra—William Lowe

Willunga—Wm. C. Durrey, assistant missionary

Kapunda—John C. Symons, assistant missionary

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Swan River—John Smithies. One requested

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Hobart Town & New Norfolk—Jonathan Innes, Henry H. Gand.

Ross, &c.—John A. Manton

Launceston—Edward Sweetman

Westbury—Jabez B. Waterhouse

Oatlands—James A. Learmouth, assistant missionary.

II.—THE NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT.

NORTHERN SECTION.

Walter Lawry, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in New Zealand, and Visiter of the Missions in the Friendly and Feejee Islands

John Hobbs, Deputy-Chairman of the Northern Section of the New Zealand District; John Whiteley, Deputy-Chairman of the Middle Section; and James Watkin, Deputy-Chairman of the Southern Section

Auckland and Pehiakura—Walter Lawry, General Superintendent, Thos. Buddle

Wesleyan College and Seminary—J. H. Fletcher

Native Institution (Three Kings)—Alex. Reid

Mannkau—Henry H. Lawry

Mangungu and Wangaroa—John Hobbs

Waima and Newark—John Warren

Wairoa (Kaipara)—James Buller.

MIDDLE SECTION.

Kawhia—John Whiteley

Aotea (Beechman Dale)—Gideon Smales

New Plymouth—Henry H. Turton

Waingarua—James Wallis

Waipa and Wakatamutumu—G. Buttle

SOUTHERN SECTION.

Waimate—William Woon

Waitotara—George Stannard, assistant missionary

Wanganui and Taupo—William Kirk

Wellington—James Watkin, John Aldred

Nelson (Middle Island) Samuel Ironside

Waikowaiti, near Otago (Middle Island)—

Charles Creed

III.—THE FRIENDLY ISLANDS DISTRICT.

Peter Turner, Chairman of the District
Tongatuba—William Webb, Thos. West,

George Daniel

Habal—Mw. Wilson, Geo. R. H. Miller

Vavau—Peter Turner, Stephen Rabone, Thos. Adams, Walter J. Davies

Niua Tobutabu and Niua-Fo-ou—Benj.

Latueselu, native assistant missionary
N.B.—1. Inui or Savage Island, and Uvea

or Wallis's Island, are chiefly under the care of native teachers. English missionaries are earnestly requested

2. John Thomas, 1st, is returning home

Stations of the Preachers.

IV.—THE FEEJEE DISTRICT.

Richd. B. Lyth, Chairman of the District.
Lakemba—Rich. B. Lyth, John Malvern;
 J. Waterhouse, Assistant Missionary
Viwa and Bou—James Calvert; William
 Moore, Assistant Missionary
Bua—Thomas Williams, 2nd; John G.
 Millard, Assistant Missionary
Nandy—David Hazlewood
N.B.—1. Ono, Lomaloma, Nokoratumba,
 Ba, Kandavu, Rotumah, are chiefly
 under the care of Native Teachers. 2.
 John Watsford is absent from the Dis-
 trict on account of affliction

III.—AFRICA.

SOUTHERN AFRICA.

I.—THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE DISTRICT.
 Wm. Moister, Chairman of the District,
 and General Superintendent of the
 Missions in the Cape of Good Hope
 District, in place of T. L. Hodgson, who
 is disabled by severe affliction.

Cape Town and Rondebosch—William
 Moister, Thos. I. Hodgson, Barnabas
 Shaw, Benjamin Riddale
Wynberg, Simon's Town, &c.—Richard
 Haddy

Stellenbosch—Edward Edwards
Somerset (West)—Richard Ridgill
Khamies-Berg (Little Namaqualand)—
 Joseph Jackson
Nisbett Bath (Great Namaqualand)—
 John A. Bailie, Assistant Missionary
Concordiaville (Damaraland)—Matthew
 Goodman

Elephant Fountain (Damaraland)—Jos.
 Tindall
Roode-Volk (Damaraland)—Jno. Thomas,
 2nd

II.—THE ALBANY AND KAFFRARIA DISTRICT.

(COLONIAL CIRCUITS.)

William Shaw, Chairman of the District,
 and General Superintendent of the
 Wesleyan Missions in South-Eastern
 Africa.

Graham's Town—William Shaw, 1st,
 General Superintendent; Henry H.
 Dugmore, George Chapman
Salem and Farmerfield—John Edwards
Bathurst and Lower Albany—Jno. Smith,
 3rd.

Fort Beaufort and Upper Albany—Fran-
 cis P. Gladwin

Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage—John
 Wilson, 2nd.

Cradook—Ebeneser T. Hepburn, Assis-
 tant Missionary

Somerset—George H. Green
D'Urban (Fingo Mission) and Fort Peddie
 —George Parsonson

Newton Dale and Waterloo Bay (Fingo Mission)—Charles White, Assistant Missionary

N.B.—The Ministers of the Colonial Cir-
 cuits are to change regularly, under the
 direction of the General Superinten-
 dent

BRITISH KAFFRARIA.

Mount Coke and Wesleyville—William
 Impey

King William's Town—J. W. Appleyard
East London—George Smith, 2nd.

Haslope Hills and Kamastone—William
 Shepstone

Lesseyton, Imvani, and Bonkolo—John
 Ayliff; J. C. Warner, supernumerary

Wittebergen—Johannes P. Bertram

KAFFRARIA PROPER.

I.—AMAKOSA.

Butterworth—J. Stewart Thomas
Beecham Wood—Under the care of Native
 Teachers

Krill's Mission (Hintza's Tribe)—One
 earnestly requested

II.—ABATEMBU.

Clarkebury—William Sargeant
Morley—William H. Garner

III.—AMAMPONDO.

Buntingville—No resident Missionary
Shawbury—No resident Missionary.
 One earnestly requested

III.—PORT NATAL AND AMAZULA DISTRICT.

Horatio Pearse, Chairman of the District.
D'Urban—William C. Holden
Pieter-Mauritz Berg—Horatio Pearse,
 Joseph Gaskin

Kwangubeni (Zwaartkops)—Calvert
 Spenseley

Indaleni—James Allison

Palmerston (Faku's Mission)—Thomas
 Jenkins

IV.—THE BECHUANA DISTRICT.

Jas. Cameron, Chairman of the District.
Thaba Uechu (Barolonge), and Lokualo (Ligoia)—James Cameron. One ear-
 nestly requested

Plaatberg (Newlanders and Basutos)—
 Richard Giddy

**Mirametsu (Korannas), under the super-
 intendence of the Missionary at Plaat-
 berg**—Cornellus V. D. Van Soelen,
 Assistant Missionary

Lishuani (Basutos)—Joseph D. Martin
 Ludorf, Assistant Missionary

Stations of the Preachers.

Umpukani (Basutos) Gottlob Schreiner, Assistant Missionary
 Imparani (Mantatees)—Under the superintendence of the Missionary at Platberg
 Colesberg—Purdon Smailes

WESTERN AFRICA.

I.—SIERRA LEONE.

James Edney, General Superintendent of the Missions at Sierra Leone
 Free Town, &c.—James Edney; George H. Decker, Native Assistant Missionary—Walter Garry, Robert Gilbert, Richard Fletcher
 Hastings, &c.—Charles Knight, Native Missionary. One earnestly requested
 York, &c.—Joseph Wright, Native Miss. N.B. Thomas Raston and Richard Hart are returning home

II.—THE GAMBIA.

Henry Badger, General Superintendent of the Gambia Missions
 St. Mary's and Barra Point—Hy. Hirst Ngabantang—Vacant
 M'Carthy's Island Joseph May, Native Assistant Missionary.
 N.B. Geo. Meadows is returning home

III.—THE GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, AND OTHER PARTS OF GUINEA.

Thomas Freeman, General Superintendent of the Missions in Guinea
 Cape Coast Town, Dixcove, Sekundi, &c.—Thomas B. Freeman, Frederick Hart, and a Native Teacher
 Anamabu, Akroful, &c.—Ebenezer A. Gardiner, and a Native Teacher.
 Domonasi, Abassa, Mansu, &c.—John Hagan, Native Assistant Missionary, and a Native Teacher
 British Akrah, Winnabah, &c.—Henry Wharton, and a Native Teacher
 Ashanti—George B. Richards, and a Native Teacher
 Badagry & Abbeokuta—John A. Martin, Native Assistant Missionary, and a Native Teacher

IV.—AMERICA.

WEST INDIES. I. THE ANTIGUA DISTRICT.

James Cox, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in the Antigua District
 Antigua—William Fidler, Wm. Ritchie, Joshua Jordan, Theophilus S. Gregory
 Dominica—George Blanchflower, Wm. F. Turtle
 Montserrat—Thomas Cannell
 Nevis—Robert Hawkins, Saml. Simons

St. Christopher's—James Cox, John B. Selley, Samuel Smyth, Geo. Sargeant
 St. Eustatius and St. Bartholomew, Benjamin Tregaskis.
 St. Martin's and Anguilla, William T. Waymouth; John Hodge, super.
 N.B.—Letters, &c., for St. Eustatius and St. Martin's should be addressed to St. Christopher's
 Tortola—William Satchell; Thomas M. Chambers, Assistant Missionary
 N.B.—Thomas Pearson, 3d, is returning home

II.—THE ST. VINCENT'S AND DEMERARA DISTRICT.

William Bannister, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent of the Missions in the St. Vincent's and Demerara Districts
 St. Vincent's, Kingstown—John Corlett, Samuel Brown, 3d, John S. Ellison, John Wood, 3d
 St. Vincent's, Biabou—Wm Bannister, Edward Collier, William Rotherham
 Grenada—Hery Hurd
 Trinidad—William L. Binks; James Elliott, Assistant Missionary
 Tobago—John Horsford, Richd. Wrench
 Demerara—George Town, Jas Bickford, William Heath, William Cleaver
 N.B.—Brother Heath shall reside at the Arabian Coast
 Demerara, Victoria—James Banfield
 Demerara, Mahaica—William Limmex
 Barbadoes—William Hudson, Thomas Butcher, Robert W. Clegg
 N.B.—Joseph Bigge is returning home

III.—THE JAMAICA DISTRICT.

Jonathan Edmondson, Chairman of the District, and Gen. Superintendent of the Missions and Schools in Jamaica.
 Kingston—Jonathan Edmondson, General Superintendent; David Kerr, Saml. Burrell, William Tyson, Geo. Smith, 4th; Richard Harding, supernumerary
 Montego-Bay and Lucea—Martin Young, Thomas Phelps
 Spanish-Town—Robert A. Johnson
 Morant-Bay—Edward Frazer
 Guy's-Hill and Watsonville—Aaron Edman
 Grateful-Hill—William G. Stedman
 Falmouth—Edwin Blake
 St. Ann's Bay—Henry B. Foster
 Ocho-Rios—William Sinclair
 Beechamville—James Kerr, Assistant Missionary
 Bath and Port-Morant—George Milesom, Alexander Foote

Stations of the Preachers.

Port Antonio—John Vaz, Assistant Miss.
 Clarendon—Richard Ridyard
 Mount Ward and Savannah la-Mar—
 William West; William Holdsworth,
 Assistant Missionary
 Brown's Town—Timothy Curtis
 Duncan's—Joseph H. Carvoso
 Yallahs—William Hodgson
 Mount Fletcher—Robert Brackenbury
 Linstead—Henry B. Britten
 Manchioneal—Herbert Carter
 Belize and Charibb Town (Honduras-
 Bay)—Jos. Webster, Herbert W. Haime
 N.B.—James Atkins, Jas. Rowden, John
 Mearns, and Edward S. Thompson,
 are returning home.

IV.—THE BAHAMA DISTRICT.

Isaac Whitehouse, Chairman of the Dis-
 trict, and General Superintendent of
 the Missions in the Bahama Islands.
 New-Providence—Isaac Whitehouse,
 Samuel Annear
 Eleuthera, First (Rock-Sound, &c.)—
 William Williams, 3d
 Eleuthera, Second (Governor's Harbour,
 &c.)—Thomas Pearson, 2d
 Harbour Island—Thomas Lofthouse
 Abaco (Green Turtle Bay, &c.)—Alex.
 J. Thompson
 Turk's Island—William English

V.—THE HAYTI DISTRICT.

Mark B. Bird, Chairman of the District,
 and General Superintendent of the
 Hayti Missions.
 Port-au-Prince—Mark B. Bird; Jos. A.
 Heuraux, Assistant Missionary
 Port-au-Plat and Samana—Wm. Towler
 Jérémie—Charles H. Bishop
 Cape Haiten and Gonaives—James T.
 Hartwell
 Cayes—St. Denis Bauduy

THE BRITISH DOMINIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

I.—MISSIONS IN CANADA WEST. INDIAN MISSIONS

William Squire, Chairman of the Dis-
 trict, and General Superintendent.
 St. Clair Mission—John K. Williston,
 who will exchange with Brother Gray
 once a fortnight
 Muncey—Samuel Rose, whose attention
 shall be specially directed to the In-
 dustrial School; Abraham Sickles
 Saugeen—William Herkimer
 Grand River—William Ryerson
 New Credit—Rowley Heyland
 Newmarket and Snake Island—Joseph
 Messmore, John Goodfellow
 Cartwright and Schoogog—Stephn. Miles

Alderville—Wm. Case, whose attention
 shall be specially directed to the In-
 dustrial School. One to be sent.
 Rice and Mud Lake—Robert Brooking,
 John Sunday
 Rama and Orilia—William Steer
 Beausoliel and French River—To be
 supplied
 Sydenham and Owen's Sound—One
 wanted

DOMESTIC MISSIONS IN THE NEW SET- TLEMENTS.

Gosfield—Robert Corson
 Amherstburgh—Richard Whiting. One
 to be sent, who shall reside at Sandwich
 Mono—William Dignam
 Notawaaga—To be supplied
 St. Vincent—To be supplied
 Barrie—Lewis Warner. One to be sent
 Crock—Cornelius Flummerfelt
 Goderich—Samuel Fear, Thos. Peacock
 Adelaide—To be supplied
 Wardsville—Charles Silvester
 Stratford—George Case
 Peel—Charles Fish; Ezra Adams, super-
 annuated
 Guelph—James Spencer, Wm. S. Griffin
 Chippewa—Reuben E. Tupper, Nelson
 Brown
 Glandford and Seneca—George Young.
 One to be sent. Andrew Prindle, su-
 perannuated.
 Shannonville—William Chapman
 Norwood—Wm. Morton, Andrew Smith
 Hungerford—Thomas Cleghorn
 Cornwall—E. Sallows, J. Armstrong, 2d
 Osgoode—Henry Shaler. One to be sent
 St. Andrew's—Francis Coleman, Erastus
 Hurlburt
 Bonchere—Thomas Hanna
 Clarendon and Onslow—William M. Pat-
 tyson. One to be sent

II.—CANADA: EASTERN DISTRICT.

William Squire, Chairman of the Dis-
 trict, and General Superintendent.
 Montreal—John Jenkins, Charles de
 Wolfe, A.M., Charles Lavelle
 Quebec—Charles Churchill
 Three Rivers—Thomas Campbell
 Wesleyville—Henry Fox
 St. John's—George H. Davis
 Chambly—John Douglas
 Hnntingdon—James Brock
 Russellton—Hugh Montgomery
 Odell Town and Hemmingford—John C.
 Davidson
 Clarenceville—Benjamin Slight, A.M.
 St. Armand's—John Borland
 Dunham—William Scott

Stations of the Preachers.

Sheffield—Rufus A. Flanders
 Stanstead—John Tompkins
 Crompton—Malcolm M'Donald
 Sherbrook and Eaton—Henry Lanton,
 John Armstrong
 Melbourne and Danville—E. S. Ingalls
 Leeds—Giffard Dorey

III.—THE NOVA SCOTIA DISTRICT.

Ephraim Evans, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent.
 Halifax—Ephraim Evans, J. M'Murray;
 Wm. Bennett, supernumerary
 Halifax County—Alexander W. M'Leod,
 George W. Tuttle
 Lunenburg—Rowland Morton
 Liverpool and Mill's Village—Richard
 Weddall. One wanted
 Shelburne—James Armstrong
 Barrington—William Wilson
 Yarmouth—Richard Williams
 Horton and Cornwallis—Thomas H.
 Davies, Henry Pope, 2nd
 Windsor—John Marshall; Matthew
 Richey, D.D., supernumerary
 Newport and Maitland—Hy. Pope, 1st,
 Robert E. Crane
 Truro and River John—Wm. M'Carty
 Amherst and Meccan—Wm. Crocombe
 Paresborough—George O. Huestis
 Wallace—Jeremiah V. Jost
 River Philip—One wanted.
 Guysborough—Richard Smith

CAPE BRETON.

Sydney—Wesley C. Beals
 Ship-Harbour—One wanted

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

Charlotte Town—Frederick Smallwood.
 One to be sent. John B. Strong, sup.
 Pownal—James B. Narraway
 Bedeque—James Buckley
 Tryon and Crapaud—One wanted
 Murray-Harbour—One wanted

BERMUDA.

Hamilton, &c.—John B. Brownell; Geo.
 Douglas, 2nd, assistant missionary;
 Jas. Horne, Thos. H. Smith, supers.

IV.—THE NEW BRUNSWICK DISTRICT.

Richard Knight, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent.
 St. John, South (Germain-street, &c.)—
 Richard Knight, Robert Cooney
 St. John, North (Portland)—William
 Smith, 2nd
 St. John, West (Carlton)—Wm. T. Cardy,
 James Taylor, 2nd
 Fredericton—William Temple
 Nashuaak—One wanted
 Sheffield, &c.—William Smithson

Mill-Town—Ingham Sutcliffe
 St Stephen's and St. David's—George
 M. Barratt

St. Andrew's—George Miller
 Sackville—James G. Hennigar
 Point-de-Bute—George Johnson
 Petitcodiac William Allen, 2nd
 Hopewell—Robert A. Chesley
 Sussex-Vale—Joseph F. Bent
 Woodstock and Andover—John Allison,
 John G. Manley

Annapolis—Michael Pickles
 Bridge-Town—Arthur M'Nutt
 Aylesford—Richard Shepherd
 Digby and Sissiboo—One wanted
 Miramichi—Christopher Lockhart
 Richibucto—R. Alder Temple
 Bathurst—John Prince
 Dalhousie—One earnestly requested
 Wesleyan Academy, Mount Allison,
 Westmoreland—Humphrey Pickard,
 A.M., Principal; Albert Desbrisay,
 supernumerary, Chaplain
 N.B.—Henry Daniel is returning home

V.—THE NEWFOUNDLAND DISTRICT.

Edmund Botterell, Chairman of the District, and General Superintendent.
 St. John's—Edm. Botterell, J. S. Addy
 Harbour-Grace—William E. Shenstone
 Carbonear—James Norris
 Blackhead—Thomas Angwin
 Perlican—James England
 Island Cove—Samuel W. Sprague
 Port-de-Grave—One earnestly requested
 Brigas—John Snowball
 Trinity Bay—One wanted
 Bonavista—Adam Nightingale
 Green Bay—John Brewster
 Burin—John S. Peach
 Grand Bank—Elias Brettle
 Hant's Harbour—William Poole Wells
 Hermitage Cove—One wanted

TERRITORIES OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Norway House, Lake Winnipeg—Wm.
 Mason
 Moose Factory—One wanted
 Lac-la-Pluie and Fort Alexander—Peter
 Jacob, Assistant Missionary
 Edmonton and Rocky Mountains—One
 wanted
 The Superintendent of these missions
 is, for the present, placed under the
 direction of the Rev. Enoch Wood,
 and the Rev. John Jenkins, the Super-
 intendent of Montreal.
 N.B.—R. D. Griffith is placed under
 the direction of the Miss. Committee.



